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Finance: More revenue with casino

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Finance Department predicts more revenue for the Commonwealth this year as the casino training facility inside T Galleria moves across the street to the more expansive area inside the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan.

Finance Secretary Larissa Larson told a House committee on Friday that she predicts higher income for the Commonwealth government

See FINANCE on Page 4

» **Casino opens on Thursday**



The casino area of the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Expect lower electricity bill

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Residential customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will pay lower electricity bills starting this month due to the reduction of the fuel adjustment charge effective July 1, 2017.

CUC was prompted to adjust its fuel adjustment charge after Mobil Oil Mariana Islands notified it that

there has been a decrease in average fuel prices.

As a result, the FAC rate of \$0.15330 per kilowatt-hour will go down to \$0.140605 per kWh.

That means residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month will save about \$3.63 in their monthly billing.

A resident, Merle Costelo-Hudkins, said, "This is very good and I

See EXPECT on Page 4

Bishop, 27 others take oath as new citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Obtaining U.S. citizenship means a sense of permanence for Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, a sense of belonging.

Jimenez, who is the bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, said his citizenship gives his apostolic assignment a sense of permanence. His ability to vote in the CNMI next year is what gives him a sense of belonging.

See BISHOP on Page 4

"I feel grateful. I think each one of us has a story to tell," said Jimenez, who was one of the 28 who took their oath as new U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony yesterday at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

"I came here in 1995 not knowing that I would be a citizen. I just came here to work, then I became a priest and now a bishop. I think this is important for me," said the 45-year-old

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NATION

President Donald Trump tweets a mock video that shows him pummeling a man.

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WORLD

Security forces chase three explosive-laden vehicles through Damascus.

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LIFE & STYLE

For T-Boz and Chilli, TLC is a marriage and divorce is not an option.

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Governor Ralph DLG. Torres



Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog

Celebrating Cultures, Community, and Service

For over seven decades, our islands have endured remarkable challenges and transformations. From the closure of Camp Susupe to the signing of our Covenant with the United States to the economic progress we see today, 72 years of freedom represents our journey together to the future we see today.

This Liberation Day, we celebrate the cultures that bind us together and the traditions passed down from our ancestors. We celebrate the people—from all walks of life and from here and around the world that represent our community. It also represents our business community and the opportunities available in our new and growing economy.

It is the ability for anyone young or old to start from a small dream and a passion to something big that gives back to the community as a whole. We also celebrate service. We remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and devoted their lives to the protection of our freedoms. We remember our veterans, including those who defended the Marianas in World War II. And we honor our brothers, our sisters, our sons, and our daughters in uniform who continue to defend the CNMI each and every day.

Liberation Day reminds us of the progress we have made together and the work still need to be done. We look forward to continue celebrating our cultures, our community, and our service to one another. After all, this is what makes our Commonwealth one of the most unique places in the world.

Happy Liberation Day!

RALPH DLG. TORRES

VICTOR B. HOCOG

Local

MVA: Make B&B customers pay hotel tax

BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitor Authority in actuality is not opposed to the operation of bed and breakfast businesses in the Commonwealth. That its customers do not pay the hotel occupancy tax is why MVA is up in arms against the concept.

This was clarified by MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, who said the CNMI definitely need B&Bs because the hotels have been consistently full.

"High occupancy levels push the proliferation of B&Bs throughout Saipan. We like the concept because it's very popular all over the world," he said. "The only thing that we have an issue with the B&Bs is the non-payment of the hotel occupancy tax by the customers. By law, they are required to charge customers 15 percent on top of the room rate."

The 15 percent hotel occupancy tax applies to all members of the Hotel Association of the Mariana Islands.

At the same time, the registration of B&B businesses in the Commonwealth is not significant in number, according to a Zoning Office source

who asked not to be identified. "This idea comes from the few number of B&B businesses that come to our office to acquire their zoning permits."

"We welcome private houses and apartments turned into B&Bs to accommodate people. But they have to pay the hotel occupancy tax, just like the rest of us. They have to do their part of paying taxes," said HANMI president Gloria Cavanagh.

Enforcing the hotel occupancy tax resides with the Department of Finance. MVA donates 2.5 percent every fiscal year of its budget to the Department of Finance for the enforcement of this law.

"For fiscal year 2018, we are projecting that \$398,000, nearly \$400,000, will come out of our budget for enforcement. MVA is aware that the Department of Finance is looking at this issue and we are confident that they are on top of it and cracking down on B&B owners that are not complying with the tax," said Concepcion.

There are estimates that the government is losing millions of dollars because B&Bs' tax evasion. For MVA, this could affect their

marketing efforts and destination enhancement projects.

"MVA's funding is from the hotel occupancy tax so if they don't pay the tax, we lose out. That's why our position is, we like the concept and we think there is a need for it because there are not a lot of hotel rooms but they should comply with the tax laws and it's only fair," Concepcion added.

A number of B&Bs apply for business licenses and zoning permits after Tax & Revenue enforcement catches them.

"There are some B&B companies that come to us for permits. But most of them come after the Tax & Revenue people catch them and make them comply with the laws. They come to the Zoning Office after paying tax fees and fines. They apply [for] the permit because they have been found out by the Department of Finance," the Zoning Office source said.

Concepcion added, "I like the free independent travelers, they look for those kinds of experiences and I do [believe] B&B experience should be a positive one. It allows the community to benefit. Just pay the proper tax. The collection of the occupancy tax has been established in the CNMI a long, long time ago. It should be applied and enforced."

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Construction workers told to wait until Aug. 15



By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Chinese workers once again staged a protest rally in front of the soon-to-open Imperial Pacific Resort casino after learning that its opening would push through on Thursday.

An estimated 40 protesters gathered in the area yesterday to express their dismay about the casino opening, saying they have yet to be paid for their work. The protesters were composed of work-

ers of Suzhou Gold Mantis Construction Decoration, MCC International, CMC Macau, and Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd.

"The casino is scheduled to open...and will earn Imperial Pacific millions of dollars. But neither the casino nor the companies it hired has paid us—the workers—even the minimum wage for the hours that we spent building it," said the protesters through a source familiar with the matter.

"We will protest until we

are paid what we have rightfully earned and the injured workers receive proper and just treatment," the protesters added.

The group has reportedly visited the U.S. Department of Labor office at least once a week since April 2017. In their visit last Monday, they were reportedly told to be patient until Aug. 15. It was not clear if their demands will be met by then.

According to Liu Yaqiang, the group is currently waiting for their wages to be calcu-

ERWIN ENCINARES
Chinese workers once again staged a protest rally in front of the soon-to-open Imperial Pacific Resort casino in Garapan.

lated according to the CNMI's minimum wage, recruitment fees for reimbursement, and their return tickets.

Zhang Guolin, who spoke for the group through a translator, said all they want is for "Labor to help settle everything. [We] want to go home and see our families."

The group feels the "casino should not be opened until the unpaid wages and problems are solved," said Guolin, adding that health and safety concerns have been a lingering issue during

the construction.

Zhang cited an instance where one of his colleagues recently felt pain on the right side of his abdomen.

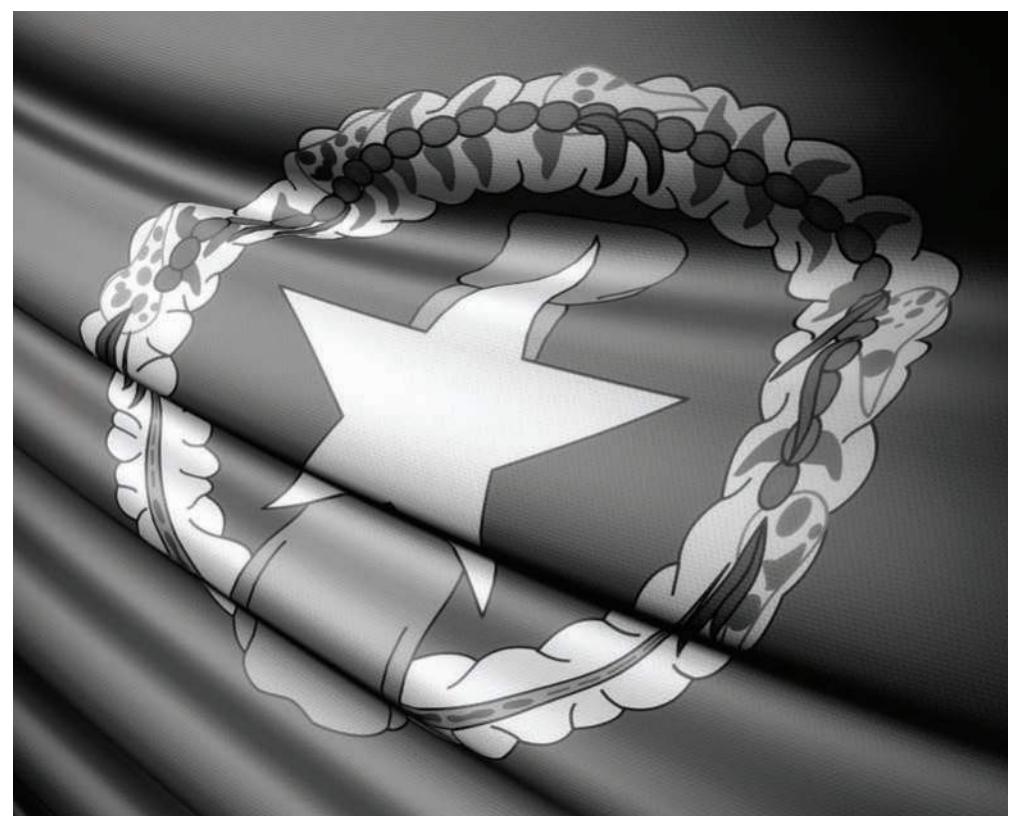
"...[We] don't have money so he just took over-the-counter pain relievers," he said.

The workers demand that their placement fees, equipment fees, and medical fees be reimbursed by the companies, which range in amount from 30,000 to 80,000 yuan (\$4,408 to \$11,756); the recalculation of their salaries following Saipan's minimum wage and overtime rates; compensation for the days that they were forcibly told to stop working; and for their tickets home to be shouldered by the companies involved.

Independence Day is the results of the sacrifices made by the great people so never forget contribution and always cherish their efforts as the country moves ahead and strive for success.

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BISHOP

From Page 1

native of Siquijor, Philippines.

After working as a teacher in the Philippines for three years, Jimenez came in 1995 to Rota, where he worked as a teacher for two years.

Bishop emeritus Tomas A. Camacho then accepted Jimenez as a candidate for the priesthood. He was sent to school in California, then came back to the CNMI and was ordained in 2003. Last year, he was appointed bishop.

Today being Liberation Day, the timing is perfect,

Jimenez said.

He is, however, mindful that there are many others who have been here in the CNMI much longer than him, who are facing challenges with their immigration status.

"While definitely it is a time to be grateful and to celebrate, I am also mindful of the many people who have contributed a lot to this community who are not as fortunate as the 28 of us," he said.

When the CNMI's immigration system came under U.S. control, the clergy and religious sisters became qualified to petition for permanent residency.

"So we did. And I think in a few more years some priests in the diocese would also be going toward this path. So after five years of being a permanent resident, then you can apply for citizenship," he said.

For Ferdinand A. Suela, he is just happy and proud to be a U.S. citizen. Suela, 54, has been working in the CNMI for 30 years now. He first arrived in 1988 on Saipan, where he worked as an assistant civil engineer at a construction company. Since 1990 he has been working at the Rota Resort. At present, he is an assistant supervisor. Suela's parents from

Hawaii petitioned him.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona administered the oath for the 28. This batch was among the 15,000 new U.S. citizens sworn in during more than 65 Independence Day-themed naturalization ceremonies across the country this year.

CNMI Military Liaison and Veteran's Affairs Office executive director Oscar Torres served as the guest speaker at the ceremony.

"Today we celebrate the 240th birthday of the United States of America. 241 years ago the Declara-

tions of Independence was signed and America was born," Torres said.

Torres said for the new citizens, each of them had a choice and each has chosen to become citizens of the United States.

"It's a huge decision. It's a wonderful choice. It is a special day for all that are here," Torres said.

Immigration Services officer Teresa Vega-Murrieta moved to accept the 28 new citizens, who are mostly from the Philippines, one from South Korea, and four from China.

Aside from Jimenez and

Suela, the other new citizens are Marcelo T. Aduca, Evelyn P. Alarcon, Juvy S. Balangit, Jennifer T. Barcenas, Lyn F. Borja, Cristina D. Butac, Rodney S. Cabarles, Mila L. Calibio, Zhihong Chen, Wilfredo A. Dela Cruz, Chaomei Deng, Tessa E. Diaz, Michelle P. Ganacias, and Marylou E. Gonzales.

The other newest citizens are Maricar A. Kisa, Conchita M. Lukas, Henan Ma, Violeta L. Opena, Adora V. Reyes, Mark L. Robles, April J. Sablan, Dug Young Song, Artemio A. Tebia, Sarah B. Tomokane, Maribel G. Whang, and Ni Yin.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, CNMI Military Liaison and Veteran's Affairs Office executive director Oscar Torres, and Immigration Services Officer Teresa Vega-Murrieta hold a group photo with the 28 new U.S. citizens during the naturalization ceremony yesterday.

EXPECT

From Page 1

will be able to use the money saved for other purposes."

CUC is allowed to adjust

its FAC—its fuel adjustment charge pass-through rate previously known as the leveled energy adjustment clause rates—pursuant to a previous order by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission

to reflect any changes in the price of fuel.

Adjustments are made when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds 4.5 percent of the average per gallon cost of fuel

used in the calculation of the FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the LEAC in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Is-

lands. In May 2015, CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers with a more accurate description of the rate.

The FAC is used to pur-

chase fuel and serve as one of the two components that make up a CUC power bill. The second rate component is the electric base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt servicing.

FINANCE

From Page 1

once the training facility moves to the hotel.

Though she made the statement prior to the announcement of the soft opening of the casino this Thursday, Larson believes that more revenue may be expected from the

larger venue.

She added that the training facility was set up as nothing more than a training facility. The revenue that will come from the actual casino floor will be a "bonus on top of what was originally planned."

"When we set up the training facility, it was really set up as a training facility. [The casi-

no] was never factored in from the plans before," said Larson. "[In] the shift to the bigger facility, they are more experienced, are already trained, and are ready to go," she said.

"A bigger facility with more opportunities for gaming can only be more profitable."

The IPR casino opens to public

The training facility inside T Galleria would officially be closing down and transferring to the hotel premises this Thursday.

The casino would technically be open to the public but a grand opening of the casino is being set for another date.

It was also mentioned that the casino would be opening

as a live training facility as opposed to a fully functional casino. The T Galleria training facility, once moved to IPR premises, would be fully renovated within a span of 24 months, or two years, according to DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce.

The go-signal to move the live training facility from T Galleria to the IPR premises

was approved by the Commonwealth Casino Commission last June 29, 2017, after the Lottery Commission amended the casino license agreement to allow the casino to open prior to the availability of 250 five-star quality hotel rooms.

According to IPR officials, the grand opening is slated for mid-July.

WOMAN

From Page 1

A man who lives near the shop called the police and checked the establishment.

When police officers arrived, the suspect had already fled.

Acting police spokesman Jason Tarkong said that police responded to Full House Gift Shop on Sunday at 8:07pm and learned from the victim that she had been tied up and the store had been robbed.

The suspect was described

as male, with a white T-shirt, a pair of dark pants, a pair of black shoes, wearing a hat, and with a beige cloth covering his face.

Tarkong said police investigation showed that the suspect walked into the shop with a knife, tied up the victim with rope, covered her mouth with a cloth, and placed her on the floor behind the clothing rack.

Tarkong said the suspect broke the cash register and took over \$1,000.

The victim managed to free herself and shouted for help. Neighbors heard the

victim's screams and contacted the police.

Piao told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the robbery happened at about 7:30pm and that four to five police officers arrived about 30 minutes later.

Piao said the suspect entered the store about a minute after two Chinese female customers left the shop.

Piao said she was in the cashier's area when the suspect arrived and told her not to move.

"I was very scared," the victim said, adding that she told the suspect not hurt her and

that he could get anything.

She said the robber tied her hands with a rope, covered her mouth with a cloth, brought her to the back area of the store, hit her head, and made her lie on the floor behind the clothing racks.

Piao said the suspect then went to the cash register and broke it to get some money.

Piao said the cash register contained only about over \$200 cash, but the robber also took the \$1,000 that she had placed inside her bag near the register.

As the robber was looking

for money in the register, Piao managed to untie herself and ran to the restroom in the back area of the shop.

Piao locked herself inside the restroom, where she shouted through the window, calling for help.

She said a Bangladeshi man who lives in the area checked the back of the restroom and asked her what happened.

After she told him about the robbery, the Bangladeshi man then called the police and went inside the shop to check on her.

It was only then that Piao

went out of the restroom and learned that the suspect had already left.

The victim said police officers later arrived.

Piao said she saw the suspect's face because the cloth that he used to cover his face fell while he was tying her up.

Piao has been working at the shop for eight years now and that was the first time it was robbed.

Tony Lim owns the shop. The CNMI Crime Stoppers Program is seeking the public's help for information about the suspect.

Tree branch falls on trailer, causes traffic

The top of a tractor-trailer with a 40-foot container of Best Sunshine accidentally brushed against a branch of a flame tree while its driver was backing up, causing the branch to fall on the trailer along Beach Road in Chalan Laulau yesterday afternoon.

The trailer's roof had a big dent but the male driver was not hurt.

Saipan Tribune learned that the driver was backing up to enter into a compound of Best Sunshine next to Triple J Motors at about 3pm when the trailer top somehow hit the flame tree's branch. The branch broke from its base and crashed into the trailer.

A construction worker said they were building a fence at the Best Sunshine compound when he saw the flame tree branch fall on the trailer.

The accident snarled traffic in the area for over an hour as the tree and the trailer blocked the road. Police re-routed the northbound vehicles to the Quartermaster Road as the Saipan Mayor's Office crew cut the branch.

Last Thursday, a tractor-trailer with a 40-foot container



Saipan Mayor's Office crew cut the branch of a flame tree that fell into a tractor-trailer with a 40-foot container of Best Sunshine near Triple J Motors along Beach Road in Chalan Laulau yesterday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

of Best Sunshine accidentally dragged a Docomo Pacific cable wire along Chalan Pale Arnold Road and toppled a pole, triggering a power outage in Tanapag. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Kuentai to host 2nd memorial

By KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The non-profit organization that exhumes the remains of Japanese soldiers killed in World War II will be doing its second memorial service this Friday, July 7, at the parking area of Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.

Kuentai is an organization with a mission to bring home the remains of Japanese soldiers who fought and died in foreign lands during the war.

According to Kuentai secretary general Usan Kurata and Kuentai USA secretary general Yukari Akatsuka, this mission was first started over 10 years ago.

The organization made it a mission to exhume on Saipan because of the large number of soldiers who died on the island during World War II.

According to Akatsuka, since the mission started, the organization has already exhumed over 800 Japanese remains on the island.

The organization hopes to exhume the remains of all the 5,000 Japanese soldiers who died on island during the Battle of Saipan.

Friday's memorial service will be held at the Aqua Resort parking area because the area was found to be a mass burial site for Japanese soldiers.

According to Akatsuka, Japanese soldiers who died during the Battle of Saipan were bulldozed into trenches,

making it easier for archaeologists to exhume their remains and identify them.

The organization uncovered six trenches starting from the Aqua Resort parking area up to Achugao and around Tanapag. Four of these trenches have been exhumed. These were the trenches located in and around Aqua Resort and Achugao.

The organization has worked closely with many different offices on the island. The organization made it a priority to attain all the permits required from the Historical Preservation Office, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Coastal Resource Management, Marianas Visitors Authority, the Japanese government, the United States government, and other local government agencies.

The organization made sure that no local or federal laws were broken to accomplish their mission.

The organization is trying its best to bring as many Japanese soldiers' remains as possible back to Japan with the help of the Japanese government.

This Friday's memorial will have three religious leaders who will lead the memorial accompanied by 12 Japanese pioneers.

After the service these pioneers will visit the caves and burial sites and see, first hand, the sites where the remains of their ancestors were found.

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Two NMC graduates pass NCLEX-RN

Two Northern Marianas College graduates from the Class of 2017 just passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.



Lopez

is the exam nursing graduates in the CNMI have to pass in order to be able to practice nursing. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are equipped with the capability to apply entry level nursing practices correctly.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez congratulated both Sablan and Lopez.

"The college community is extremely



Sablan

Mika Sablan and Lovely Martin Lopez—who both took the exams at different times—have passed the NCLEX, joining the ranks of other NMC graduates who passed the difficult exam before them.

The NCLEX-RN

proud of Mika's and Lovely's achievement," said Fernandez. "I have no doubt that both of them will become outstanding nurses."

"I also want to recognize and thank the hard working faculty and staff of NMC's Nursing Department for their role in guiding and supporting all our students," Fernandez added.

Rosa Tudela, chairperson

of NMC's Nursing Department, said, "Both students are very committed to the nursing profession and will make excellent medical professionals. The Nursing Department is proud of their achievement."

Sablan said a lot of confidence, prayers, and studying made her pass the NCLEX.

"I chose nursing as a profession because I know that no matter where life takes me, it will never leave me without an

option for work," Sablan said.

Lopez said her family's support, prayers from her church members and friends, and adequate preparation time were the factors that helped her pass the NCLEX.

"The NMC nursing pro-

gram really helped prepare me for this exam," Lopez added. "My professors helped develop my nursing skills and equipped me with the essential knowledge and resources to tackle the difficult questions in the NCLEX." (NMC)

Nominees sought for award

"Bridge of Light" for victims and survivors in the CNMI.

Nominations may be submitted by a member, representative, and/or volunteer of NMCADSV and/or the Family Violence Task Force; a victim or survivor; or an employee, representative, and/or volunteer at eligible CNMI agencies, organizations, or offices.

To verify if an agency, organization, or office is eligible to nominate, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email Angelyn N. Palacios at angelyn@endviolencenmi.org.

Moreover, the nominee may be a service provider, representative, or volunteer at one or more eligible agencies, organizations or offices in the CNMI, and who has been there for a minimum of one year. The nominee must also show dedication and effort in the areas of leadership, service, advocacy for victims, prevention, community education or mobilization, and resource development.

Nominations may be submitted online through <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MNDK5H>. Nomination forms are also available for pick up and submission at the NMCADSV office in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai next to New XO Market, or may be emailed upon request through angelyn@endviolencenmi.org. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9am to 3pm. The deadline to submit completed nomination forms is 5pm on Friday, Aug. 18, 2017.

Note that nominees will be considered for the Bridge of Light Award based only on information reflected on the completed nomination form. Those who would like to nominate individuals for the Bridge of Light Award are strongly encouraged to submit detailed and thorough nominations.

The recipient of the Bridge of Light Award will be announced during the upcoming Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation signing ceremony in October. Past awardees include Department of Public Safety officer Flora Aguon, Karidat Social Services' executive director Lauri B. Ogumoro, Division of Youth Services social worker Mildred W. Sikebert, and Karidat Social Services' counselor Elaine C. Dela Cruz.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at (670) 234-5498. (PR)

PUBLIC NOTICE



Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fifteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, July 6, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at the Office of the Commissioner Conference Room, Building 1211, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP.

AGENDA¹

- I. Preliminary
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. June 14, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
- II. Public Comments²
 - Reports
 - 1. Chair
 - 2. Board Committees
 - a. CIP
 - b. FPA
 - c. ISA
 - d. LIA
 - e. SICPP
 - f. SARC
 - 3. Commissioner of Education
 - a. Financial Status Reports
 - i. Federal
 - ii. Local
 - b. Head Start Program
 - c. Others
- IV. Unfinished Business
- V. New Business
 - 1. USDA Rural Development Grants: Interim Financing
 - 2. Aspiring Leaders Institute
 - 3. Food and Nutrition Services Revised Proposed Charge Policy
 - 4. Preparation of School Year 2017-2018
 - a. Enrollment by Schools
 - b. Teacher/Student Ratio
 - c. Teachers Recruitment
 - d. Instructional Supplies and Materials
 - 5. Head Start Programs
 - a. Carry-over Reprogram Grant Application
 - b. Budget Revision Grant Application
 - 6. Student Assessment for School Year 2016-2017
 - 7. Regulations Final
 - a. 60-30-400 Classification & Salary
 - b. 60-40 Small Purchases
 - c. 60-40 Change Orders
 - 8. Legal Counsel Contract
 - 9. Certification and Licensure Matters
 - a. CLO Report 2017-007
- VI. Executive Session³
 - 1. Legal Updates
 - 2. Personnel/Certification
 - 3. Other matters
- VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
- VIII. Adjournment

¹ In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.

² Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

³ Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Torres grants post-LibDay admin leave

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres gave non-critical government employees an administrative leave following the Liberation Day festivities.

In a memo yesterday, Torres said that non-critical government departments and agencies are granted an administrative leave for the full day of July 5, 2017, provided that

"essential public services are not disrupted."

All government employees are urged to "join the [Liberation Day] festivities," starting with tonight's annual Liberation Day parade as well as the annual Liberation Day festival at the Garapan Fishing Base. Fireworks may be involved in the celebrations. (*Erwin Encinare*)

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES



By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the Fuel Adjustment Charge, previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC, depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the Fuel Adjustment Charge. Due to a decrease in the average fuel prices, CUC will adjust the fuel-charge by 4.73%. Accordingly, the Fuel Adjustment Charge has decreased from \$0.15330 per kWh to **\$0.14605** per kWh effective **July 1, 2017**.

BASE RATES

	<u>RESIDENTIAL</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>MP*</u>
1 Monthly Customer Charge	\$ 7.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.06
2 Base Rates Per kWh:				
	KWH LEVELS			
1)	1 to 350	\$ 0.0210	\$ 0.1130	\$ 0.1240 \$ 0.1070
2)	351 to 1,200	\$ 0.0970	\$ 0.1130	\$ 0.1240 \$ 0.1070
3)	1,201 and over	\$ 0.1580	\$ 0.1130	\$ 0.1240 \$ 0.1070

*Municipal Pumping

FUEL ADJUSTMENT CHARGE or FAC (Previously known as Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause or LEAC)

	<u>RESIDENTIAL</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>MP*</u>
Current FAC (Effective 07/01/17)	\$ 0.14605	\$ 0.14605	\$ 0.14605	\$ 0.14605
Previous FAC (06/01/17 - 06/30/17)	\$ 0.15330	\$ 0.15330	\$ 0.15330	\$ 0.15330

*Municipal Pumping

PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF

Availability:	Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.
Energy Charge:	The Energy Charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable Electric Base Rate and the Fuel Adjustment Charge.
Fixture Charge:	See below.

<u>FIXTURE TYPE</u>	<u>WATTS</u>	<u>KWH/MONTH</u>	<u>FIXTURE CHARGE PER MONTH</u>
1 Long Arm	250	101	\$ 11.67
2 Short Arm	175	71	\$ 8.33
3 LED	140	57	\$ 10.83

ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES

1 Late Charge (monthly)	1% of Past Due
2 NSF Check / Returned Check Charge	\$ 40.00
3 Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments) - Temporarily Suspended	\$ 1.50
4 Unauthorized Connection	\$ 550.00
5 Reconnection at the Pole	\$ 200.00
6 Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)	\$ 210.00
7 Disconnection Notice - Temporarily Suspended	\$ 15.00
8 Meter Change Out	\$ 95.00
9 New Service - Single Phase	\$ 135.00
10 Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)	\$ 90.00
11 Meter Test - Single Phase	\$ 75.00
12 Meter Test - Three Phase	\$ 110.00
13 Disconnection at the Meter	\$ 45.00
14 Reconnection at the Meter	\$ 60.00

Updated July 2017

100 DAYS OF SUMMER

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2016 Toyota Corolla LE 4-door Sedan, Red, 4-Cyl, 1.8, STK#R17-014F Now \$20,999*	2014 Sienna LE van 8-pax, V6, Auto, White, STK#R17-013F Now \$23,399*	2016 Mazda CX-5, Grand Touring Sport Blue, 4-Cyl, Auto, AWD, STK#U17-001T Below KBB Suggested Retail Value Now \$25,999*	2015 Highlander LE, FWD 4-Cyl, Auto, Red, STK#R17-017F Now \$30,199*	2015 4Runner SR5 4WD, V6, 4 Liter, Auto, Gray, STK#U17-018L WAS \$33,199 Now \$31,399*	2015 4Runner SR5 4x4 3rd Row, Red, STK#U17-052T Now \$33,199*
2016 4Runner SR5 Red, 4WD, Auto, STK#U17-044R Now \$33,599*	2016 4Runner SR5 Gray, 4WD, Auto, STK#U17-036R Now \$33,999*	2015 Toyota Sienna LE 8-pax Van, Black, 6-Cyl, STK#U17-049R Now \$34,499*	2015 Toyota Sienna LE 8-pax Van, Red, 6-Cyl, STK#U17-050R Now \$34,499*	2015 Sienna LE van 8-pax, V6, Auto, Beige, STK#U17-058R Now \$34,999*	2016 Tundra Crew Max SR5 Gray, 4WD, Auto, STK#U17-006F WAS \$51,599 Now \$48,599*

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Benavente is new DLNR chief

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation approved Friday during their session on Rota the nomination of former representative Anthony T. Benavente as secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Benavente succeeds the late

Richard Seman in the position.

Prior to Benavente's appointment by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last May 22, 2017, former House speaker Eli Cabrera served as acting DLNR secretary since early April. Cabrera now returns to his post as director of the Division of Parks and Recreation.

In an earlier interview, Be-

navente said he is seeking to cooperate with the people in the department "in terms of making sure that our federal fund programs are in line with what we are doing."

"My goal is to make sure we do our best. I'll make sure our resources are well managed to provide for our people and for the safety and

betterment of our people," said Benavente, acknowledging the many local and federal issues that the department needs to focus on.

Acting Corrections commissioner Vincent Attao's nomination was also brought up during the Senate session on Rota. However, it was not confirmed as of publication what the Senate's action was in his case. (*Erwin Encinares*)

3 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged three Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these loca-

tions for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are the Grotto cave, Bird Island, and Old Man by the Sea. Samples

collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human

and animal waste in the water. DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (*DEQ*)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its general membership meeting tomorrow, July 5, at the Seaside Hall, Kanoa Resort, featuring Marian Aldan-Pierce, district president of DFS and board member of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. She will discuss the need for collective documentation that outlines the efforts to recruit and train U.S. eligible workers as well as other factors that have affected hiring practices in the CNMI. Also speaking are representatives of the CNMI State Rehabilitation Council. Luncheon will be served at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. (*PR*)

Garapan Fishing Base boat ramp closed temporarily

The Garapan Fishing Base boat ramp and its parking facility will be closed to all vessels until tomorrow, July 5, 2017, to provide access and parking to Liberation Festival patrons. Use the Smiling Cove Marina boat ramp at this time. For questions, call 664-6000. (*PR*)

WSR now accepting registrations

William S. Reyes Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians will need the following documents: updated health certificate (CHCC), updated student insurance/Medicaid, birth certificate (new students), legal guardianship documents (if applicable/must be issued by a U.S. court system; affidavit and power of attorney do not apply). If legal guardianship documents were issued by a foreign court system, all documents must be translated and certified through a U.S. court system. Visit the school to register. Contact the school at 664-3972 or 237-3542. (*PR*)

Lower Base transfer station, Marpi landfill closed on July 4

In observance of Independence Day today, July 4, 2017, both the Lower Base transfer station and the Marpi landfill will be closed all day. Regular operations resume tomorrow, July 5, 2017. (*PR*)

Military training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla tomorrow, July 5, from 2pm to 9pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (*PR*)

Family grief support group to meet on July 6

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, July 6, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. For more information, email tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at [www.compassionatelffriends.org](http://www.compassionatelfriends.org). (*PR*)

GMS registration

Green Meadow School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for first to eighth grade for school year 2017-2018. Visit the GMS business office in Chalan Kiya or Gualo Rai and pick up the registration form. We are also opening registration for first grade at the Gualo Rai branch. For inquiries call 235-2185, 233-6452 or 483-6452. (*PR*)

OES now accepting registrations

Oleai Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians of returning students are also asked to update registration and all supporting documents. Registration forms are available at our main office. For more information or inquiry, call our main office at 664-3942. (*PR*)

MHS report cards now available

Registration for new incoming and returning students for Marianas High School is ongoing until July 31, 2017. Copies of all required documents must be attached before your child can be registered. Call 664-3800/01 or visit www.marianashighschool.com for more information. (*PR*)

SSHS registration

Saipan Southern High School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Come to our main office and pick up registration forms. All requirements must be turned in. Call 664-4000/2 for any other information. (*PR*)



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HAPPY LIBERATION DAY CNMI!



CRIME OF THE WEEK

Garapan robbery

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a robbery incident that occurred at the Full House Gift Shop along Garapan Street in Garapan.

On Sunday, July 2, 2017, at about 8:07pm, police responded to the Full House Gift Shop and met with the victim, a 49-year-old Chinese female, and learned that she was tied up and robbed by the suspect.

The suspect—described as male, wearing a white T-shirt, a pair of dark pants, a pair of black shoes, hat, and a beige cloth covering his face—walked into the store armed with a knife.

AMP to host youth program

13, from 9am to 12pm.

To register your child, stop by the American Memorial Park Visitor Center and complete a registration form. Space for the camp is limited. Applications will be accepted at the park and youths will be enrolled on a first come, first served basis.

This will be the second year that participants will have the opportunity to learn about the mission of the park through fun activities during the three-day camp. Highlights include a guided tour of the museum and memorials, as well as orienteering with compasses and GPS (global positioning system) devices.

The Soldier Skills summer camp will be held on July 11-

To learn more about these programs or other happenings at the park, contact Pacific Historic Parks education specialist Jovannalyn Mafnas at 234-7207 or 2020 or email jmafnas@pacifichistoricparks.org or Ranger Brooke Nevitt at [\(NPS\)](mailto:brooke_nevitt@nps.gov)



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BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE.**

**Happy
Liberation Day!**

From the management and staff



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MVA continues push of NMI as sports destination



A team member from Imperial Pacific International Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility hands out water to athletes along the pathway on Beach Road at the recently staged 2017 Tagaman Triathlon.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Last March, 181 triathletes from all over the world took part in the first edition of Ironman 70.3 Saipan.

The Tagaman Triathlon, which has been held on island every year since 1988, held its latest edition last June 24, 2017.

In between is the XTERRA Saipan triathlon, which is also a crowd-drawer.

There are also a host of smaller events unique to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota that also cater to tourist-athletes. These suite of sporting events round up the continuing efforts of the Marianas Visitors Authority to position the CNMI as a sports destination in the Western Pacific.

"Sports tourism is very important to us. It's a big focus for my marketing team and community projects team. Sports tourism is clean, it brings in high yield customers and has very minimal damage to the environment so we want to encourage it even more," said MVA managing director Chris Concepcion.

Ironman 70.3 Saipan was the first Ironman that's ever been held in the Marianas and Micronesia. "For us to be able to bring the global Ironman brand to the CNMI is huge. It is a prestigious event that attracts athletes all over the world and the exposure the CNMI gets for all its promotions is very important," Concepcion said.

Another MVA signature event is the Tagaman Triathlon. "It is the longest running race in the Western Pacific and we are happy that every year, the number of athletes who participate, local and foreign keeps going up, Concepcion said.

Saipan was recently certified by the International Association of Athletics Federation, which is the international governing body for the sport of athletics- sprint, middle/

natural resources."

Sports tourism in the CNMI not only targets athletes but also spectators and lovers of the sport who come

to the CNMI to watch their favorite athletes.

"Going forward, we are going to continue to look at sports tourism as a big focus

for us. We are also keen on promoting sports tourism on Tinian and Rota," Concepcion added.

Other MVA-sponsored

sports events in 2017 are Konquer in September, the Rota Blue Marathon in November, and Hell of the Marianas Century cycling in December.



"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty."

—President John F. Kennedy



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 22nd birthday to John Emmanuel Montano Ortiguerre, who is celebrating his special day today, July 4! Greetings come from Mom Jane, Jerome, and Janvir.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From the Management & Staff of



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

July 4 reminder: Our struggles make us great

Less than half of people surveyed by Pew in 37 countries have a positive view of the U.S., a drop from nearly two-thirds in recent years.

Videos of police-involved shootings routinely go viral, political polarization has become a legitimate national security concern and the mortality rate among some groups has increased in recent years.

None of that should sully planned Fourth of July celebrations; it should enhance them. The struggles we are facing means there's never been a better time to be an American.

This country was forged by fire. It didn't spring up whole cloth out of comfort, but was conceived because of discomfort. An urgency to fight injustice and correct wrongs was the impetus for a new kind of democracy. The country's birthday wouldn't mean as much, wouldn't resonate for so many, if it had happened any other way. Imperfect men and women—who owned and beat and raped slaves—revolted against other imperfect men and women an ocean away. It was bloody and relentless and cruel. It was full of contradiction and grounded in the untenable, that all "men" were created equal and endowed with inalienable rights, but only if those men had the proper skin tone or a large enough bank account or were ... men.

It was not easy to come through that, and another great war about eight decades later, stronger and with a greater appreciation for freedom. But we did.

Greatness is revealed in times of strife, because greatness is the only thing that can successfully pull us, kicking and screaming every step of the way, to the other side and into a better day.

That's why there has never been a better time to be American, because greatness will have to reveal itself again to pull us through, again. It has always shown up when it's been needed most.

Greatness must show up in the arts and entertainment and journalism and politics and education and medicine and science and public policy and economics and business and just about everything else.

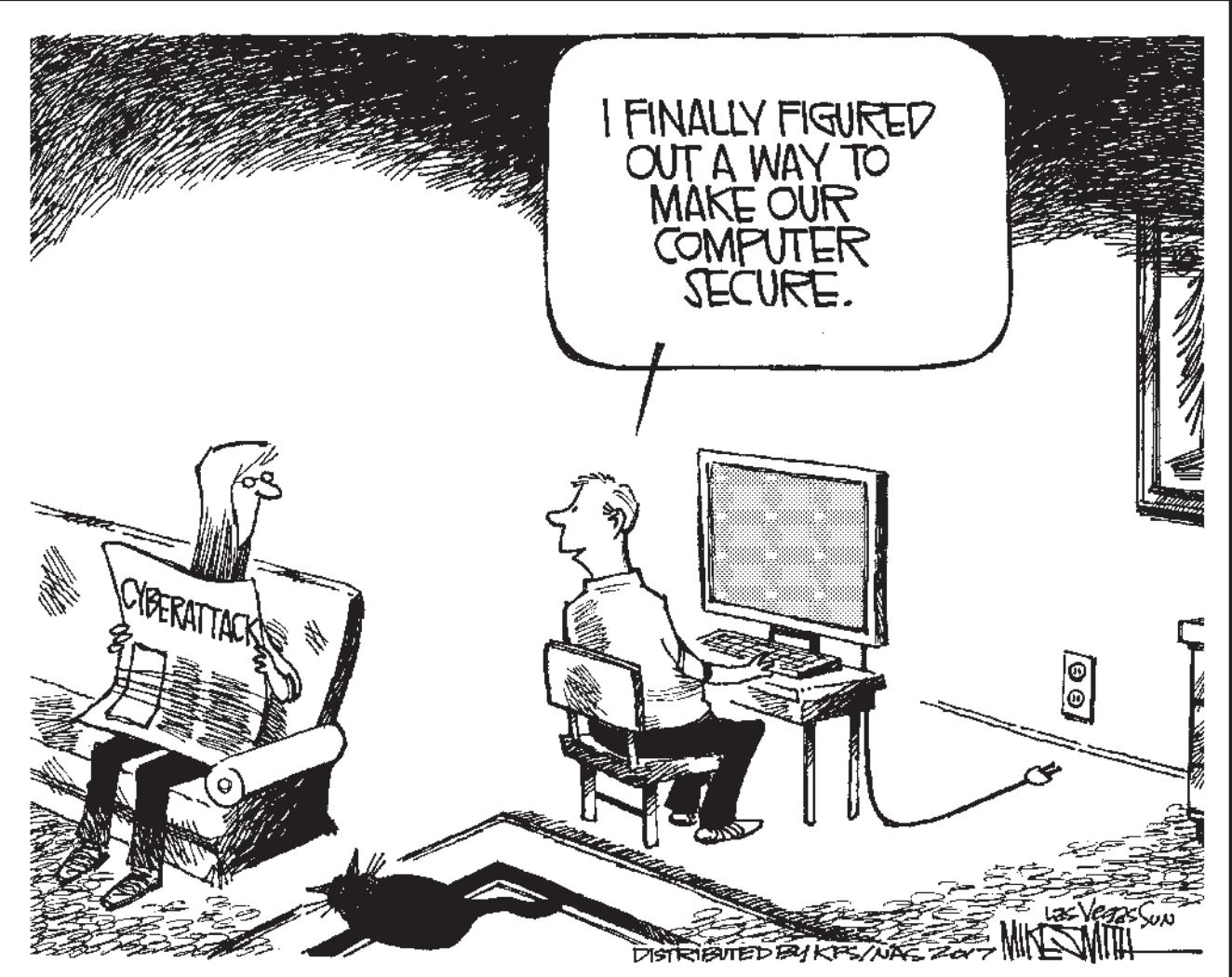
And it will.

The United States hasn't been great because it has been perfect, but because it always searches for new, innovative ways to identify and address its imperfections, sometimes through corporations seeking more profit and influence, sometimes through government entities trying to be worthy of the power they've been granted, but frequently through individual citizens sick and tired of being sick and tired. That relentless pursuit has long been the country's No. 1 calling card, convincing talent from throughout the world to study and live here.

Greatness is within reach of more people than ever because of the global technological advances the U.S. made possible. That should give us confidence even when headlines depress.

There has never been a better time to be American, because greatness will have to reveal itself again to pull us through, again.

(c)2017 The Charlotte Observer (Charlotte, N.C.)



Ten years later, the iPhone owns us

Steve Jobs unveiled the first iPhone in January, 2007, before an adoring congregation, in his signature "Sermon on the Mount" style. On June 29, it became available to the public. Ten years later, the phone has spread like Christianity. The device represents "the pinnacle product of all capitalism," as Brian Merchant argues in his new book, "The One Device: The Secret History of the iPhone." Merchant calls the adoption of the iPhone a "rapid, civilization-scale transformation."

Happy birthday, iPhone. Time for a return to its origins.

In the stage show that introduces the phone, Jobs has no doubt he's making history. The Apple logo is rendered, tall as a man, in what looks like onyx ganache. Jobs stands on the dais, haloed in the logo's glow. He explains the novelty of touch-screen scrolling. He flashes the album art from Green Day's "American Idiot." He plays a good-luck voicemail from Al Gore. He speaks of magic, of revolution.

And, then, at length, he talks smack about the horrible BlackBerry buttons, which he intends to make obsolete with the glabrous minimalism of the iPhone.

Yes, glabrous: "having a surface without hairs or projections." Merchant doesn't use the word in his book, which chronicles his search for what he calls "the soul of the iPhone." But glabrous may be the perfect way to describe the pinnacle fetish of capitalism. I heard it first from Marina Warner, the British mythographer, in a lecture she gave that likened the iPhone to Venus de Milo and depilated porn actors. Those idealized female forms, she said, look and feel alien, the way the iPhone does, and all three suggest that terrestrial humans—in our stubborn hairiness—chronically fall short.

The iPhone is also "oleophobic": It fears oil. Hairless and oil-free, the iPhone holds human biology in contempt. "We have designed something wonderful for your hand," said Jobs on that first day. But the iPhone is to human hands like cold chrome is to warm, yielding fruit.

Sigh. We fell in love with hardware that was our opposite.

I watched the Jobs keynote introducing the iPhone, and—like many others—I was charmed by the device's sleekness and aspirational price tag. But I put off buying one. For all the Green Day it could play, it also seemed aloof. Meanwhile, my beloved BlackBerry worked better than ever. The keyboard worked so well that by 2007 I could write long emails on it in mixed cases and full paragraphs. I didn't use SMS or its goofy shorthand in those days. Designed for lawyers seeking roving billable hours, the BlackBerry made it possible to actually work

By VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN

Los Angeles Times



Virginia Heffernan co-hosts the "Trumpcast" podcast and is the author of Magic and Loss: The Internet as Art. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

and write while on the go.

But suddenly, when the iPhone appeared, every phone but Apple's started to look like a fidget spinner for the dandruff club. I couldn't shake the idea that there was something unsightly and uncool about a raised "non-dynamic" keyboard, so when my T-Mobile plan elapsed, I switched to iPhone-friendly AT&T, and took home my first iPhone.

For months I thought of it as the Greta Garbo of my personal effects. It wouldn't mix with my warm leather wallet or battered Filofax. It seemed to leap from my hands as if it would be alone or get cracked trying. No more writing long emails on the vanishing keypad; with my new clumsiness I became less literate, and found text abbreviations and emoji easier. I started taking thousands of rolls of pointless photographs for which I evidently needed yottabytes of space in the iCloud. I blamed myself when its battery drained too fast.

Over these 10 years, two moments in Jobs' iPhone baptism have stuck with me. The first is when he compares the iPhone to all other smartphones, saying, "It's way smarter and super easy to use." The primary Apple promise: We are smarter so you can be dumber. That's been true for me. I used to regularly open my BlackBerry and even had some sense of how it worked; now I have to trust Geniuses for my iPhone's simplest repairs.

The other line I think of is a Jobs throwaway. He's deep into rhapsodizing about the phone's features, and mentions the sensor that keeps your phone from hanging up if you brush against it. "You don't get spurious input from your face!" he fairly shouts. The word "spurious"—bogus—stood out. That stuff your face says, those "inputs," are not true inputs, in Jobs' world. What's true are only the inputs the phone has been programmed to recognize. For the iPhone, everything else—human skin, faces, emotions, warmth, long paragraphs of real prose—cannot be said to exist. It's all spurious.

And that's how in a single decade nearly a billion of us came to own the iPhone, and the iPhone came to own us.

EDITORIAL POLICY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Declaration, the Constitution, the Bible

The Fourth of July is an opportune occasion to reflect on the memorable phrases of the struggle for independence such as “Give me liberty or give me death,” “No taxation without representation,” and “Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God.” These words were on the lips of Americans as their representatives huddled in Philadelphia, agitating for their rights and, eventually, declaring independence from Great Britain.

What were the sources of the ideas encapsulated in the great documents of the nation’s founding and in these trenchant phrases that mobilized the American people? While some of the sources are familiar and much discussed, others are often overlooked.

The founding generation drew on and synthesized diverse intellectual traditions in forming their political thought. Among them were British constitutionalism, Enlightenment liberalism, and classical and civic republicanism.

To this list of intellectual influences, one must add the Bible—both the Hebraic and Christian biblical traditions. As the eminent scholar Martin E. Marty remarked, America “has more than the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution enshrined in a vault in its archival heart. The Bible also is there.”

The Bible was the most accessible, authoritative, and venerated text in late 18th-century America. It was, by far, the most cited book in the political discourse of the age, referenced more frequently than the great political theorists John Locke and Baron de Montesquieu.

Not all of the founders acknowledged the Bible as the revealed Word of God. Nonetheless, it was widely regarded as a receptacle of great wisdom and, especially Jesus’ teachings, a handbook for ethical and virtuous conduct.

Many Americans of this generation thought Christianity and its sacred text were valuable resources for their time and predicament. And they figured prominently in the momentous events that unfolded in Philadelphia.

When the First Continental Congress convened in Carpenters’ Hall in early September 1774, one of its first official acts was to call a minister, who read Psalm 35 to the assembled delegates and prayed for God’s blessings on their important work.

In the years that followed, as Americans articulated their fundamental rights, agitated for political independence, and established new constitutional republics in the aftermath of a devastating war, many Americans—including those who doubted the Bible’s divine origins—looked to the Bible for insights into human nature, civic virtue, social order, political authority, and other concepts essential to the establishment of a new political society. Some saw in Scripture political and legal models—such as republicanism and separation of powers—that they believed enjoyed divine favor and were worthy

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Happy Liberation Day!

Dear friends: On this Liberation Day, I tip a solemn and melancholic salute to veterans and their comrades who paid with their lives in defense of our freedom.

Yes, the term freedom has been echoing in my ears since my grammar school days attending flag ceremonies every Monday. But it wasn’t the *Star Spangled Banner* that I find patriotic nor is it *Gi Talu` Gi Halum Tasi* or the staccato *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

It was *America The Beautiful* that says in part, “O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain! O beautiful for patriot dream, that sees beyond the years...and crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea!”

Ti Gi Un` Palasyun I Riku reminds us that home poor we may be but I won’t exchange it for anything in the world. These pearly isles are home for our people. Happy Liberation Day!

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

of emulation in their polities.

A popular view among Americans, for example, was that the Hebrew “republic” described in the Scriptures was a model of and divine precedent for a republican government well designed to promote political prosperity. The founders were well aware that ideas like republicanism found expression in traditions apart from the Hebrew experience, and studied these traditions both ancient and modern. The republic described in the Hebrew Scriptures, however, reassured pious Americans that republicanism was a political system that enjoyed divine favor.

More important than a model for republicanism, some founders thought the Bible was an indispensable handbook for republican citizenship. In particular, the Bible, more than any other source, taught the civic virtues required of citizens in a regime of political self-government. A self-governing people, in short, had to be a virtuous, disciplined people who were controlled from within by an internal moral compass, which would replace external control by an authoritarian ruler’s whip and rod. And the Bible, many believed, was the well-spring of this essential civic virtue. This prompted John Adams to describe the Bible as “the most republican book in the world.”

The Constitution gives evidence of a political vision informed, in part, by the Bible, and it includes features that were familiar to a Bible-reading people. Scholars, for example, have noted that the founders’ devotion to the separation of powers and checks and balances reflected a biblical understanding of original sin and a reluctance to vest unchecked government power in the hands of fallen human beings.

Convention delegates occasionally invoked the Bible in surprising and interesting ways. During debate on the qualifications for public office, the venerable Benjamin Franklin spoke in opposition to any proposal that, in his words, “tended to debase the

LITERARY NOOK

Four Fields for the Fourth of July 2017

» (ABCD: America, Bosons, Children of immigrants, Dog at a baseball field)

By JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

American Fields of Change

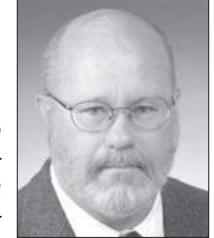
chili peppers and cornfields grow outside the kitchen window Civil War to WWII battlefields are designated National Parks gravestones of brave military men and women lined up in a row forests and fields of wildflowers burned by campfire sparks serious college students enter fields of political science and law food crops, oceans, medicine, stars and other fields of science research global warming, rising waters and the way glaciers thaw illogical lawmakers propose cuts in science programs in defiance new health care plans seem to be beneficial for the very wealthy many proposed new laws hurt patients and the medical care field how can struggling families keep all their loved ones healthy what good for democracy will these proposed changes yield freedom of speech ranges from everyday normal to strange coming next time certainly inevitable fields of voter change

Boson Fields – Higgs Boson Fifth Anniversary

On July 4, 2012 in Melbourne Australia on the opening day of the International Conference on High Energy Physics, some four years after the start up of the (LHC) the Large Hadron Collider, which is seventeen miles of high tech tunnels more than three hundred feet underground, the announcement was made that a probable Higgs type boson had been identified. Subsequent tests and experiments conclude it was a Higgs boson type particle. These particles, which are among the smallest parts of nature, make up a field of particles which give mass to photons and other elemental particles. Without them the universe would fall apart. Peter Higgs wrote about what is called the Higgs boson in a paper in 1964. 6,000 scientists have been looking since then. 96% of the universe is made up of dark energy and dark matter

By DANIEL L. DREISBACH

The Philadelphia Inquirer



Daniel L. Dreisbach is a scholar adviser to the Faith & Liberty Discovery Center coming to Philadelphia’s Independence Mall, a professor at American University in Washington, and the author of *Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers* (Oxford, 2017). @d3bach. He wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

spirit of the common people. ... We should remember the character which the Scripture requires in Rulers.” He invoked Jethro’s advice to Moses regarding qualifications for prospective Israelite rulers, “that they should be men hating covetousness” (Exodus 18:21). Significantly, Franklin appealed to a biblical standard in this debate on a substantive provision, informing his audience in unambiguous language that his source was “Scripture,” and then he referenced a specific biblical text.

Some years ago, in a cover story on “The Bible in America,” Newsweek magazine reported that the Bible “has exerted an unrivaled influence on American culture, politics and social life. Now historians are discovering that the Bible, perhaps even more than the Constitution, is our founding document.” Whether or not one accepts this bold statement, the evidence suggests that the story of American independence and the constitutional experiment in republican self-government and liberty under law cannot be told accurately without referencing the Bible.

the Higgs boson field may help us identify and understand the latter

Children Of Immigrants – Fields of Choice

deep cuts can be found in Trump’s 2018 budget in fields of Science in EPA research he proposes to cut from the program \$246 million 45 seems against research, which he never reads, in ignorant defiance and at (NIH) National Institutes of Health he wants to cut 5.8 billion he wants to ban some countries’ predominate religious groups entry several state courts have refused to implement this ban on immigrants he also proposes a multi-billion dollar Mexican wall as a border sentry closing off borders not giving these various immigrant groups a chance 87% of the 2016 Intel Science Talent search for US high school scholars were children of immigrants, some parents escaping from despotic rulers only seven of the forty finalists parents were born in the United States lets hope discrimination doesn’t change these immigrant children’s fates about passage of negative proposals and laws we have to wait and see Science Talent info from the National Foundation for American Policy

A Hot Dog Speaks at a Baseball Field

they sold me right after I cooked because my smell to them seemed piquant and delicious in the air that aroma slowly wafting everywhere with its warm succulent fragrance casting a spell all around until no nose would have a nostril that had not had its nasal passages stirred then the neural receptors in its grey matter sent everyone a most mouthwatering message from me pile those hot dogs and buns high on the platter but this steamed and boiled world is not my only visage indeed one might say this Frankfurter sometimes is fried I should acknowledge my Vienna sausage heritage and love for my Polish and Italian sausage with whom I’m allied perhaps once with sweet relish I dreamed of onions and mustard

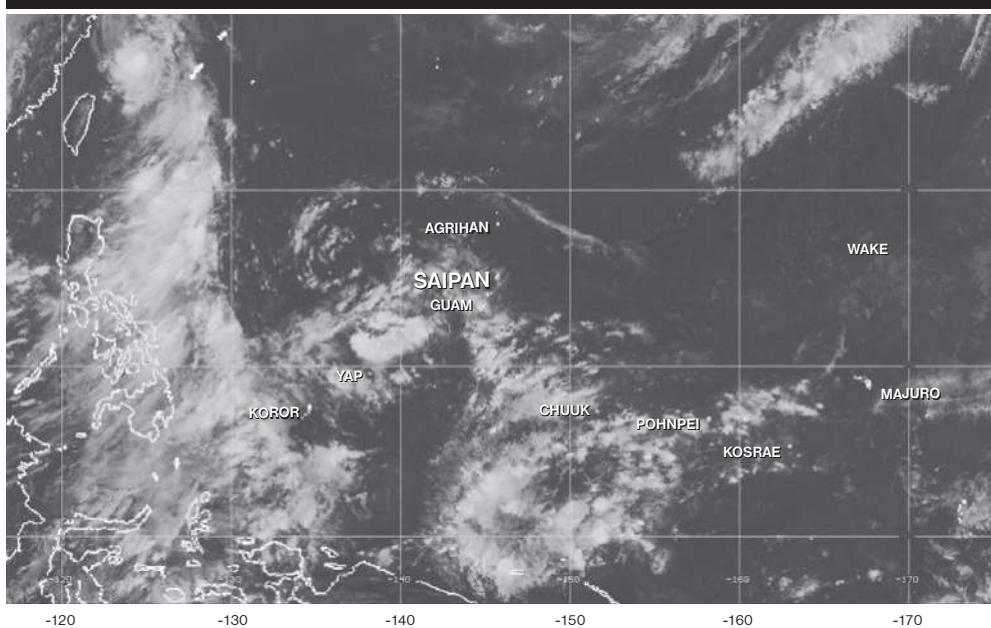
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲ 89°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 78°
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YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, MONDAY, JULY 3, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

With the upper low out west, the forecast for this morning is a little ticklish. New showers have popped generally west of the islands overnight, but in the last hour some showers have been developing near the islands. For now, the forecast is for isolated showers and thunderstorms today, but the possibility exists that a convective outbreak could bring scattered showers to some of the islands, especially this morning. But with the upper low moving steadily off to the west, have deemed isolated coverage the most representative forecast--for now, at least. The rest of the forecast is little changed from previous, with isolated showers the rest of the week, and a slight chance of thunderstorms toward this coming weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86°	/ 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84°	/ 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85°	/ 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86°	/ 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86°	/ 78°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86°	/ 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86°	/ 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Showers	57°	/ 52°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	90°	/ 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88°	/ 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87°	/ 76°
London	Mostly Cloudy	73°	/ 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	79°	/ 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90°	/ 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	55°	/ 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87°	/ 80°
New York	Sunny	86°	/ 69°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	84°	/ 75°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	81°	/ 61°
Busan	Thunderstorms	79°	/ 73°
Rome	Sunny	90°	/ 68°
Salem	Thunderstorms	90°	/ 73°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61°	/ 55°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	84°	/ 72°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	82°	/ 73°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	92°	/ 74°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
3:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.84
10:59 AM	LOW TIDE	0.23
5:41 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.46
10:33 PM	LOW TIDE	1.06

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:00 AM	2:49 PM
Wednesday	-	2:40 AM	3:37 PM
Thursday	-	3:23 AM	4:26 PM
Friday	-	4:07 AM	5:14 PM
Saturday	-	4:53 AM	6:03 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 5	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7					

2017 Summer Youth in Transition Camp



Children play dodgeball as part of their sports activity at the 2017 Summer Youth in Transition Camp. Lvinna Palma, a 7-year-old participant, said, "I like games in the summer camp where all of us belong in a team. We play together and cheer on each other."

BEA CABRERA



Youth volunteers of the 2017 Summer Youth in Transition Camp, from left, Jerrett Rosario, John Mario, Dominique Calvo, and Joseph Neraifes, all from Marianas High School.

BEA CABRERA



Jessie De los Reyes, a dietitian at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., give children some guidelines on proper nutrition.

BEA CABRERA



Participants in the 2017 Summer Youth in Transition Camp smile for the *Saipan Tribune*. "We hope the camp never ends," they said.

BEA CABRERA



Officers and volunteers of the 2017 Summer Youth in Transition Camp at the Carolinian Utt, Garapan.

"The camp promotes camaraderie and lasting friendships among the youth," said program coordinator Colleen Diaz.
BEA CABRERA

BEA CABRERA

Nation

Trump tweets mock video showing him beating man labeled CNN

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP)—In his latest jab at the media, President Donald Trump on Sunday tweeted a mock video that shows him pummeling a man in a business suit—his face obscured by the CNN logo—outside a wrestling ring.

It was not immediately clear who produced the brief video, which appears to be a doctored version of Trump's 2007 appearance on World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. The 28-second clip was posted on Trump's official Twitter account, with the message: "#FraudNewsCNN #FNN."

The president in the past has branded the media as "the opposition party" and "the enemy of the American people." He has taken particular aim at CNN, calling the network "fake news."

Trump stayed on the attack later in the day, stating on Twitter that "the dishonest media will NEVER keep us from accomplishing our objectives on behalf of our GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE!"

Bruce Brown, the executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, condemned the video as a "threat of physical violence against journalists." He said Trump's tweet was "beneath the office of the presidency."

A White House aide insisted the tweet should not send a chill across the media landscape.

"I think that no one would perceive that as a threat,"



homeland security adviser Tom Bossert said. "I hope they don't. But I do think that he's beaten up in a way on cable platforms that he has a right to respond to."

CNN accused Trump of engaging in "juvenile behavior far below the dignity of his office."

White House officials traveling with Trump during his weekend stay at his New Jersey golf club did not immediately respond to questions about who made the video or about any message the president might have intended to send.

The video appeared to be a doctored version of an appearance Trump made on a World Wrestling Entertain-

ment Inc. show called "Battle of the Billionaires" in 2007, in which Trump appears to attack WWE CEO Vince McMahon.

McMahon's wife, Linda, who founded and built the company with her husband, now heads the Small Business Administration for Trump and was a generous benefactor to his campaign.

The video was posted several days ago by a Reddit user with the title, "Trump takes down fake news." It was not clear whether that was where it originated or where Trump found it. Still, the user wrote Sunday about being "honored" Trump had tweeted the video. The user who posted the video has a history of posts

using anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant language.

The president's verbal shots against news outlets and individual members of the media have grown increasingly personal in recent days even as lawmakers in both parties say the insults only threaten to undermine his political agenda.

Trump has singled out MSNBC host Mika Brzezinski and CNN for some of his most biting criticism, and hardly is backing down in the face of widespread condemnation from the political class.

"The fake media tried to stop us from going to the White House, but I'm president and they're not," Trump told a supportive crowd Saturday.

week, bracing for a flood of phone calls, emails and television advertising from both conservative and liberal groups aimed at pressuring senators. Sen. Bill Cassidy held a town hall meeting last Friday to talk about flood recovery in Baton Rouge, Louisiana's capital city, but audience members angry over the GOP health care bill at times chanted over Cassidy's answers and criticized the secretive legislative process.

"I wish we weren't doing it one party," Cassidy said Sunday, adding he remains undecided on how he will vote.

Trump's suggestion had the potential to harden divisions within the GOP as conservatives complain that McConnell's bill does not go far enough in repealing Obama's health care law while moderates criticize it as overly harsh in kicking people off insurance rolls, shrinking the Medicaid safety net and increasing premiums for older Americans.

President Donald Trump shared a video meme of him physically tackling CNN and repeatedly punching it in the face.

day in Washington.

A White House spokeswoman, Sarah Sanders, told reporters last week that Trump "in no way, form or fashion has ever promoted or encouraged violence."

CNN, in its response to the video posted Sunday, said it was "a sad day when the president of the United States encourages violence against reporters. Clearly, Sarah Huckabee Sanders lied when she said the president had never done so."

CNN's statement noted the weighty list of issues before Trump—an overseas trip this week that includes a meeting with Russian leader Vladimir Putin, the stalled health care bill, the threat from North Korea. Instead of focusing on those matters, CNN said, "he is involved in juvenile behavior far below the dignity of his office. We will keep doing our jobs. He should start doing his."

Trump's latest tweet came as Republicans and Demo-

crats have been imploring him to focus on leading the country, rather than exploding on social media.

For days, Trump has focused his ire on Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough, co-hosts of MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

Trump took to Twitter on Thursday to call Brzezinski "crazy" and contend she was "bleeding badly from a face-lift" when he once saw them at his Florida estate. The comment was decried as sexist and vulgar by many Democrats and Republicans.

The MSNBC personalities said Friday that Trump was lying about their December encounter and they questioned his "unhealthy obsession" with their program.

The hosts, who are a couple onscreen and off, also said the White House told them a damaging National Enquirer story about their relationship would "go away" if they called the president and apologized for harsh commentary. Trump quickly disputed the claim on Twitter.

Republican officials acknowledged Sunday that Trump's Twitter feed distracts from work like health care.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man facing murder charges in road-rage slaying of woman, 18

WEST CHESTER, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania man

Off-duty cop who killed daughter's boyfriend faces 3rd trial

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—A former Oklahoma police officer who said he was trying to protect his daughter when he fatally shot her black boyfriend in 2014 is on trial for the third time in seven months, after jurors in previous trials couldn't decide whether he was guilty of murder. Experts say Shannon Kepler's case illustrates a broad unwillingness to convict police officers, particularly in cases involving fatal shootings—and even when the lines between officer and civilian are blurred. Kepler was off duty when he shot 19-year-old Jeremy Lake in August 2014. Lake was walking with Kepler's daughter when Kepler approached them near the home of Lake's aunt. Kepler later claimed Lake was armed and that he was acting in self-defense, but police didn't find a weapon on Lake or at the scene. While one jury found the 57-year-old former Tulsa police officer guilty of recklessly using a firearm, it was unable to agree on whether that crime led to the far more serious conviction of first-degree murder.

Trump makes push on health bill; repeal-only vote an option

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is making a weekend push to get a Republican Senate bill to repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's health care law "across the finish line," Trump's top legislative aide said Sunday, maintaining that a repeal-only option also remained in play if Republicans can't reach agreement.

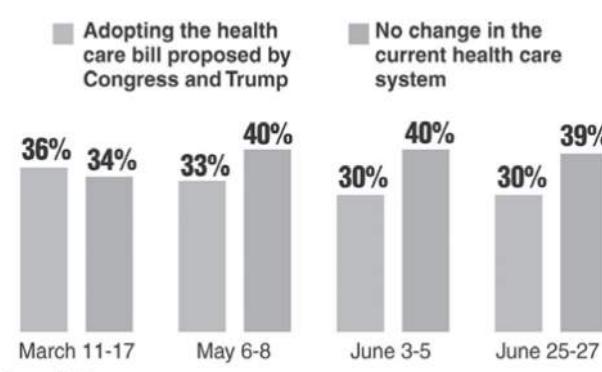
Marc Short, the White House's legislative director, said Trump was making calls to wavering senators and insisted they were "getting close" on passing a bill.

But Short said Trump continues to believe that repeal-only legislation should also be considered after raising the possibility last Friday. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has dismissed that suggestion and said he intended to proceed with legislation being negotiated over the July 4 recess.

"We hope when we come back, the week after recess,

Health care adoption

Which of the following would you prefer?



we'll have a vote," Short said. But he added: "If the replacement part is too difficult for Republicans to get together, then let's go back and take care of the first step of repeal."

Trump on Friday tweeted the suggestion of repealing the Obama-era law right away and then replacing it later, an approach that GOP leaders and the president himself considered but dismissed months

ago as impractical and politically unwise. But the tweet came amid continuing signs of GOP disagreement among moderates and conservatives over the bill. Republicans hold a 52-48 majority in the Senate. Just three GOP defections would doom the legislation, because Democrats are united in opposition.

Republicans returned to their home districts late last

Asia

Pakistan official angry over ex-CIA contractor's memoir

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan intelligence and security officials reacted angrily Sunday to the release of a memoir by an ex-CIA contractor, saying his 2011 acquittal in a high-profile murder case and subsequent return to the U.S. was an arrangement between Pakistan and the U.S., not among individuals.

Raymond Davis made headlines this week when his book exposed the alleged role of Pakistan's former spy chief Shuja Pasha in quashing a murder trial against Davis by paying \$2.4 million to the families of two men Davis killed while working for the CIA in Pakistan in 2011.

The incident triggered a diplomatic crisis when police arrested Davis for the killings. But, seven weeks later, the families of the slain men told a court that they pardoned Davis, ending a tense showdown



In this Oct. 4, 2011 file photo former CIA contractor Raymond Davis, right, and his attorney William Frankfurt arrive at the Douglas County Courthouse in Castle Rock, Colo., for a court hearing on a felony assault charges. AP

Tokyo governor's party heads for big win in city election

TOKYO (AP)—The new party of the Japanese capital's populist governor appeared headed for a thumping victory Sunday over Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's scandal-laden ruling party in a Tokyo assembly election that could alter national politics, with Abe's historic defeat likely making it difficult for him to achieve his agenda.

Gov. Yuriko Koike's Tomin First no Kai, or Tokyoites First party, won 49 of the 127 assembly seats, or all but one of the candidates it fielded, Japanese television stations reported Sunday evening after the voting ended.

Abe's Liberal Democratic Party, meanwhile, took a beating for recent scandals and an increasingly criticized high-handed approach. The LDP won only 23 seats—down from its current 57, and even less than its previous record low of 38 seats set in 1995 and 2009, according to national broadcaster NHK. The LDP fielded 60 candidates.

Koike's Tomin First party and the Komei party, its new ally and the LDP's longtime coalition partner in parliament, together secured 72 seats, comfortably exceeding the majority of the assembly, making it easier for Koike to push through her political agenda. All of Komei's 23 candidates won.

For Abe, the results mean it will be more difficult for him to achieve his goals—to stay as prime minister until the 2020 Olympics, and to achieve his long-cherished re-

vision to the war-renouncing constitution.

Although official results were not expected until Monday, Koike declared victory as she decorated the names of her party's projected winners on a white board with flower-shaped ribbons in the shade of green—her signature color.

"We are certain to become the leading party" in the assembly, she said, adding that the results had exceeded her expectations. "I believe our policies from the perspective of the Tokyo residents won a mandate from voters."

Opinion polls ahead of the election predicted a big win for Koike's party, with Abe's Liberal Democrats taking a hit after being buffeted by scandals and gaffes.

Shigeru Ishiba, a senior LDP lawmaker seen as a possible successor to Abe, called the results a "historic defeat" for the party. "The results underscored that not many Tokyo residents thought the LDP was modest and sincere," Ishiba said.

Television footage showed Abe coming out of a restaurant after meeting with top officials from his party Sunday night, but the prime minister briskly walked away, refusing to comment.

The result of the Tokyo assembly election has in the past set the tone for national elections. Koike is rumored to be eyeing a return to parliament to run for prime minister.

A former TV newscaster, Koike became Tokyo's first

female leader last summer and earned a reformist image after repeatedly clashing with the male-dominated city government. She portrayed the LDP-dominated assembly as a place of murky politics run by an anti-reform old boys' club that is interfering with her agenda, including cost-cutting of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. She has approval ratings of about 60 percent.

Koike, 64, had shifted parties until settling with the LDP in 2002 and since held

key party and Cabinet posts, including defense minister. She angered party seniors when she abruptly ran for Tokyo governor last year, but did not officially leave the party until last month to head her own. She keeps friendly relations with Abe, prompting speculation that she may eventually run for his job.

Abe had long enjoyed stable approval ratings since taking office in 2012, but he and his party have been hit by a series of scandals in recent months.

between the U.S. and Pakistan, America's ally in the war on extremism.

Sunday's reaction came after Davis released "The Contractor: How I Landed in a Pakistani Prison and Ignited a Diplomatic Crisis." In the book, Davis says he considered the two Pakistanis a threat when they rode their motorcycle near his car and one of them had a gun in his hand.

"I had never killed anyone before," he writes. "Thankfully, all ten rounds I fired found their intended targets."

A Pakistani intelligence official acknowledged the country's spy agency helped the

ASIAN BRIEFS

US ship sails near disputed island, raising China's hackles

WASHINGTON (AP)—A U.S. Navy destroyer in the South China Sea sailed near a tiny island disputed by three Asian governments as part of an operation affirming the right to passage, a U.S. defense official said Sunday. The Chinese government, which joins Taiwan and Vietnam in claiming Triton Island, accused the U.S. of trespassing in its territorial waters when the USS Stethem came within 12 nautical miles of the island. The U.S. Pacific Fleet had no comment on China's statement or specifics about the Stethem's operations.

A U.S. defense official, who was not authorized to speak by name and requested anonymity, said the Stethem conducted a routine "right of innocent passage" exercise on Sunday. Such exercises are used to bolster the argument

that nations cannot claim that prior notice is required before passing through territorial waters as allowed under international agreement. In a written statement, China's foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said the U.S. action constituted "a serious political and military provocation" and that such operations "violate China's sovereignty and threaten China's security."

Afghan officials: Taliban kill 13 local militiamen in ambush

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban insurgents ambushed a local militia group in northern Balkh province, killing 13 pro-government fighters, provincial officials said Sunday. Munir Ahmad Farhad, spokesman for the governor of northern Balkh province, said local forces were on their way to take part in a security operation when they were ambushed. The men were part of a local

militia established under the authority of the Interior Ministry to defend the area from insurgents. A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent to media. Also on Sunday, Taliban insurgents launched attacks on the city of Kunduz from two different directions in the country's northeast, according to provincial officials. Mahmood Danish, spokesman for the provincial governor in Kunduz, confirmed that Taliban fighters attacked the city and heavy fighting was continuing Sunday.

Vietnam buffalo fight suspended after animal kills owner

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A traditional water buffalo fight in northern Vietnam was suspended after an animal attacked and killed its owner, in the first human fatality since the sport resumed after the Vietnam War. The buffalo

was killed and samples were taken to determine whether the animal had been given a stimulant to make it more aggressive, said Do Van Viet, a local official in the resort town of Do Son where the fight took place. Traditional buffalo fighting was halted during the Vietnam War and resumed 27 years ago. Several buffaloes have died in the fights that pit the animals against each other, but Saturday's death was the first human fatality since the fights resumed, Viet said Monday. The buffalo at first chased the owner of the other animal but failed to catch him and then turned on its owner, who died several hours later from multiple wounds, Viet said. State media identified him as 46-year-old Dinh Xuan Hung, who trained fighting buffaloes for other owners for 10 years and this year had owned and trained a buffalo for himself for the first time.

World

Damascus rocked by suicide blast, 2 others foiled

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Security forces chased three explosive-laden vehicles through Damascus Sunday, intercepting two of them at checkpoints but failing to stop the third before it exploded in the city center, killing at least eight people, state media and others reported.

The rare attack in the heart of Syria's capital unfolded ahead of the morning commute on the first work day after a major Muslim holiday.

The Interior Ministry said security forces tracked all three cars and intercepted two of them at checkpoints on the airport road. The third made it into the city center, where the driver blew himself up near Tahrir Square.

The Syrian Minister of Local Administration, Hussein Makhlof, said the response marked a "major success in foiling a plot" to cause mass casualties.

There were conflicting casualty reports.

Syrian state TV reported eight killed and another 12 people wounded in the blast near Damascus' old city. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which tracks the fighting with on-the-ground monitors, reported at least 12 killed. Meanwhile the Hezbollah-linked Lebanon's



This photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, shows people gathering at the scene of an explosion along the road to the airport in southeast Damascus, Syria, Sunday, July 2, 2017. AP

al-Manar TV, which is close to the Syrian government, and Diary of a Mortar, a Syrian activist group in the capital, said 19 people were killed.

State TV showed footage of two scorched vehicles on the airport road, as well as

footage from Tahrir Square showing a damaged building and mangled cars at the small roundabout.

Such attacks have been relatively rare in Damascus, the seat of power for President Bashar Assad, who made a se-

ries of public appearances last week in a show of increased confidence after more than six years of battling a rebellion.

Pro-government forces have engaged in heavy fighting in Damascus' suburbs during the war, but have largely kept the

rebels out of the city center. In recent days, Syrian troops and allied forces have been

Looters strip Greek mountains of wild tea, rare plants

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP)—In the rugged, herb-scented mountains of northwestern Greece, where the border with Albania is a snaking invisible line, trouble is brewing over tea—the wild herbal variety.

Greek authorities and conservationists say bands of impoverished Albanians are making regular cross-border forays, illegally harvesting donkey-loads of herbs and medicinal plants. They mostly pick mountain tea—also called ironwort—hawthorn and even primrose, but they are also destroying rare and endangered species in the process.

The looters then sell the herbs for export to pharmaceutical or cosmetics companies, a business that nets Albanian wholesalers tens of millions annually.

It's illegal in Greece to pick more than a tiny quantity of wild herbs for personal use in traditional infusions. That ban doesn't exist in Albania, one of Europe's poorest nations. But, more significantly, the plants are usually uprooted in the looters' haste to pick as

much as possible and be off undetected. This stops natural regeneration, threatens delicate ecosystems and leaves entire mountainsides denuded.

Albanians contend the herbs are there and the Greeks don't pick them, so why shouldn't somebody profit?

Christos Toskos, an environmentalist in Greece's Kastoria border area, says the depredations have increased over the past five years, with incursions now coming on a daily basis.

"There is very large destruction in areas covering thousands of acres," he said.

Vassilis Filidis, who grows his own herbs in Kastoria, lamented the fate of an old wild ironwort patch in the Grammos mountains.

"It covers about 3 square kilometers (740 acres). In past years, the mountain tea grew there like a sea. The plants formed waves," he told The Associated Press. "I went this year and was shocked, it's all been uprooted."

Greece's flora is among the richest in Europe, with about 6,500 native plant species.

In targeted operations over

the last few months, Greek police have arrested at least ten Albanians and seized dozens of kilograms of herbs. In one case in late June, three people were caught with 136 kilograms (300 pounds) of ironwort loaded on two horses and a donkey.

Albanian exporters pay illegal gatherers up to 6 euros (\$6.80) a kilogram (2.2 pounds) for ironwort and 7 euros a kilogram for hawthorn, Greek officials say.

"They illegally enter Greece and quickly gather the plants to avoid being seen," said Brigadier-General Panagiotis Ntziovatas, head of police for the border region of western Macedonia.

Those caught have been given suspended prison sentences of one or two months and been deported.

Many poor Albanians are crossing the mountains into Greece this year because of an herb shortage in Albania due to freezing temperatures last winter, said Filip Gjoka, president of Albania's Association of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants and owner of an herb and spice trading company.

He said they sometimes take whole families and camp in the mountains with their horses or mules.

"There are a lot of herbs in Greece, where they are not collected due to labor force shortages or lack of interest," Gjoka told the AP. "We here collect those herbs, and these people take the risks to support their families. They can bear a few months of jail since there are no other jobs."

In 2016, 24 Albanian companies exported some 17,000 tons of medicinal and aromatic plants and herbs—186 varieties—worth a total of \$40 million. They process only about 30 percent of that amount in five factories and export the rest raw.

The U.S. is a main importer, while others include France, Germany, Spain and even Australia.

Kastoria agriculturalist Dimitris Natos said the international market for herbs, particularly for use in cosmetics and foods, is expanding rapidly.

"Annual turnover growth is in the double digits, at around 15 percent," he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Fire rages in Syrian refugee camp in Lebanon, 1 dead

BEIRUT (AP)—A fire broke out in a Syrian refugee settlement in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley Sunday, killing at least one person and sending large plumes of black smoke into the sky, the state news agency and the Red Cross said. Ahmed Salloum, a member of the local emergency services, said the fire turned the tent camp near Qab Elias town into "ashes." He said firefighters and emergency workers struggled for over two hours to contain the fire that broke out around midday. Temperatures are soaring in Lebanon's Bekaa region, and Salloum, an electricity technician, said he suspected an overload of power was to blame. "The settlement has turned to ashes. Even the iron melted," Salloum said. Only the bathrooms at the edge of the settlement were left standing. The explosion of gas canisters could be heard from a distance. George Ketteneh of Lebanon's Red Cross said initial reports indicate that over 100 tents burned down and one person died. Ketteneh told The Associated Press that about 97 families, or an estimated 700

persons, live in the informal settlement. He said at least six were wounded.

Former Greek Olympic Committee President Minos Kyriakou dies

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greek media mogul Minos Kyriakou, a former president of the country's Olympic Committee, has died. He was 75. Kyriakou died Sunday of a heart attack, the private Athens Medical Center said. He became president of the Greek Olympic Committee after Athens hosted the Summer Olympics in 2004. He served in that position until 2009. He was president of the Panellinios Athletic Club and a former council member of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), having been elected in 2003. Kyriakou was the chairman of media conglomerate Antenna Group, which he founded in 1989. It includes radio and TV stations in Greece and several Balkan countries, internet providers and a publishing house. He began his career as a ship owner in the mid-1960s and remained involved in the sector. Twice divorced, Kyriakou is survived by two sons and a daughter from his first marriage.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

50th-year Corolla an even safer bet



The 2017 Toyota Corolla.

By BARRY SPYKER
 TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The Toyota Corolla has always been a safe bet for those seeking steady, reliable transportation at a reasonable price. After all, 43 million buyers — Toyota says it's the best-selling nameplate in the world — can't be wrong.

Still, the Japanese carmaker decided to celebrate Corolla's 50th anniversary this year by making it an even safer bet — emphasis on safe. Borrowing from Prius, its especially eco-friendly sibling, the Corolla for 2017 now includes the Toyota Safety Sense P package of active safety features. And it's standard on all trims.

Using a camera and laser to monitor traffic conditions, the system offers pre-collision warning and pedestrian detection with automatic braking, adaptive cruise control, lane-departure warning with mitigation to steer the car back into the lane, and a back-up camera. Also added this year is blind-spot monitoring.

Plus, Corolla again earned a 5-star overall rating from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and was declared a top safety pick from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Marking the anniversary is a special-edition model with its own 17-inch wheels, anniversary badging and floor mats, and a special black-cherry paint color.

Beyond the anniversary chatter, Corolla has added a new sport trim this year, the XSE, which has a black grille with fog lamps, an integrated rear spoiler, and a continuously variable transmission that mimics a 6-speed transmission when placed in Sport mode. And, with Scion now merged into the Toyota family, the Corolla line gains a hatchback for 2017: the Corolla iM

(which you may remember as the Scion iM).

So there's lots going on but very little, really, in the 2017 Corolla in terms of style, power and performance. Oh, there's a new front fascia, taillight elements and a refreshed dashboard design.

But power still comes from an efficient but sluggish 1.8-liter inline-4, which gets 132 horsepower and 128 pound-feet of torque. If you really get on it (and how many will bother?), it should get to 60 mph in just under 10 seconds. So, if you're looking for a brisk or



The interior of the 2017 Toyota Corolla.

TNS

fun ride, better look elsewhere in the segment. Ford Focus, Mazda 3 and VW Golf come

to mind.

Most will opt for the CVT, which is well-behaved and not

as whiny as some of them. A 6-speed manual gearbox is still available on one model, the SE, for an additional \$1,220.

The ride is mostly smooth and quiet, coming over bumps and ruts adequately. Steering feel is next to numb. And Corolla has no interest in attacking corners, so they are best taken casually.

More important to Corolleans is that EPA-estimated figures of 35 mpg on the highway and 27 mpg around town are well within reach and can even be better with the

6-speed manual. An LE Eco version actually beats those figures with 42 mpg highway.

Inside, a new gauge cluster, some softer materials and up to a 4.2-inch infotainment screen, depending on trim level, class up the dash a bit. For an extra \$309, you can get illuminated door sills, too.

Front seats offer good support and are comfortable enough for long trips. Back-seat space has adequate room for heads, legs and knees. A week's worth of groceries easily fit into the trunk, which is better-than-average for the segment.

Toyota knows these are the things that matter most to Corolla buyers. Comfort, reliability, economy. But, to honor the car's 50th birthday, the carmaker threw in a few more features — just to be safe.

Barry Spyker was the automotive columnist for The Miami Herald and editor of its Wheels & Waves section. Readers may send him email at spy2351@yahoo.com.

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Toyota Corolla SE

■ MSRP: \$24,171 (with TRD performance exhaust, sway bar, 6-speed transmission)

What's all the excitement about? Corolla celebrates its 50th anniversary with a high-tech safety package, standard across the board

■ Powertrain: 1.8-liter inline-4 mated to 6-speed manual or CVT

How's the performance? Well, it's a Corolla: Underpowered, 0-60 mph in 10 seconds, but it'll get you there every time

What about fuel economy? 30 mpg combined (27 city, 35 highway); LE Eco model rated at 42 mpg highway

UNDER THE HOOD: Low-mileage driver should change his antifreeze

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
 TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I have a 2010 Dodge Caliber with 28,000 miles on it. Since retiring, I only drive it about 1,000 miles every six months, at which point I change the oil and filter and do the other routine checks. Should I also be changing the antifreeze?

Also, what is it with auto designers? Why don't they put the fuel tank filler on the left side of all vehicles? It would really help improve traffic at gas stations. Am I the only one who gets upset with this?

—Richard A.,
Leesburg, Fla.

A: Water pumps as well as engines constructed with aluminum cylinder blocks and heads are prone to corrosion and erosion if proper maintenance isn't performed.

I'd recommend you drain your current antifreeze, refill with water, run the car, drain

it again, and then refill with a 50-50 mix of Mopar MS-9769 green coolant (or its equivalent) and distilled water.

Your vehicle's maintenance schedule calls for replacement of coolant at 60,000 miles, but the coolant lists a five-year/100,000-mile lifespan, which you're past. Chrysler specifies the use of an ethylene glycol-based coolant with hybrid organic corrosion inhibitors and does not recommend mixing with any other type of coolant. Other vehicles have different requirements.

If you generally drive the vehicle for 30 minutes or longer, you'd probably be fine changing the oil on an annual basis. But if you do lots of short trips, which contribute to sludge build-up, keep changing frequently.

Fuel-filler locations seem to vary by era and country. Old-time domestic fueling pumps were at the curb, making a right-side filler the

norm. Now, the left side is most common for vehicles intended for sale in the U.S. and Canada. In Europe, it's the right side. Because we now have multilane filling stations and roads filled with vehicles designed for a variety of countries, it's anyone's guess where their filler might be found. Vehicle features such as battery and exhaust system location may also be a factor.

Many vehicles have a tiny arrow on the fuel gauge as a reminder of which side the filler is located. And with some multilane stations having a one-way traffic patterns and pumps on each side of the islands, a mix of filler locations may not be so bad.

Q: What's the best gasoline to use? I just started driving and am confused by conflicting advice on which gas is really needed. Obviously, I don't want to pay more than I have to.

—June, Chicago

A: Your owner's manual

or fuel filler door label (if used) will list the minimum octane fuel to be used for that engine-vehicle combination. Most vehicles are designed for 87 octane fuel. Higher-performance cars and turbocharged engines typically require 91-93 octane fuel to prevent engine damaging detonation, also called spark knock. If the information says "recommended" instead of "required," the engine can adjust for the use of lower grade 89 or 87 octane fuel. Performance will decline slightly, potentially outweighing the fuel savings, and I wouldn't try this in hot weather or demanding driving conditions. Using a higher-octane fuel than specified is unnecessary.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

NEW YORK (AP)—For T-Boz and Chilli, TLC is a marriage and divorce is not an option.

The top-selling girl group is releasing its final album on Friday. Although they don't plan to record new music, "That doesn't mean we're done though. That doesn't mean we won't do a residency in Vegas," T-Boz said.

"We have a body of work and when you (have) timeless songs like 'Waterfalls' and 'No Scrubs' and 'Unpretty,' you should be able to (tour), you know. The white rock bands do it all the time. Why can't we?"

Of the potential Vegas residency, Chilli said: "We've had some people come and reach out, but it just got to be right."

For now they are focused on "TLC," their fifth album and first in 15 years. They recorded the project over the last two years. It features Snoop Dogg, a song sampling Earth, Wind & Fire's "September," producer Ron Fair and help from T-Boz's brother, songwriter-producer Carnoy "Ayo Kayo" Watkins.

In an interview with The Associated Press, TLC talked about their music, dating while in a girl group, Beyoncé, Ed Sheeran and the late Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes.

HATERS GONE HATER

TLC, which launched a Kickstarter fund in 2015 to raise money for their final album, earned more than \$430,000, though they initially asked for \$150,000.

"We were in disbelief," Chilli said. "We were so shocked."

Katy Perry and thousands of fans donated to the project, which thrilled the band. That was in contrast to the reaction the group received when Left Eye died in 2002, T-Boz said.

"When Lisa first passed, so many people, especially ones you wouldn't think would



In this June 9, 2017 photo, Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas, left, and Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins of TLC pose for a portrait in New York to promote their self-titled album. AP

turn on us, kind of counted us out, but her passing didn't really hinder our ability to sing and dance, and our talent didn't leave, we just lost a group member," she said. "So you find your new normal and you put it back together and to see that people believed in us touched my heart the most."

BEYONCE'S FAN GIRL MOMENT

TLC has big fans in artists like Drake and Lady Gaga, but Beyoncé's fan girl moment really surprised T-Boz and Chilli.

The group said Queen Bey showed her love to the veteran girl group at the season 10 finale of "American Idol" in 2011.

"This is the first time this ever happened. Like, she just rolled up on us and was like, 'Thank you for everything,'" Chilli said.

"That was some of the best

times of my life" is what she said," T-Boz added.

"We were like, 'Oh really? Never knew that! People said that she said stuff like that in interviews, I just didn't know. ... That was like real humbling and just like, 'Wow, really? OK girl!'"

The group also has a fan in rapper J. Cole, and they collaborated on the 2013 hit, "Crooked Smile." Cole almost worked on a song for the new album.

"We ran out of time 'cause we would have had a song with J. Cole. ... He wanted to do one authentically from scratch," T-Boz said.

TRY AGAIN

TLC has been known for its loud and outspoken videos, from the futuristic outfits in "No Scrubs" to the condom eye patches in "Ain't 2 Proud 2 Beg."

But they said the video

for the No. 1 hit "Creep"—the first single on their 1994 sophomore album, "Crazy-SexyCool"—was filmed three times.

"We didn't like them; scrapped them and started again. ... We were like, 'If we come back out, we need to make a statement,'" T-Boz said. "It wasn't strong."

Then the group watched the video for Salt-N-Pepa and En Vogue's "Whatta Man."

"And Lisa turned (around) ... and I remember her going, 'That's what it should look like it,'" recalled T-Boz, imitating Lisa's squeaky voice. "And then we were like, 'Yeah!'"

"It just came together and it was like we evolved into these women instead of these little girls. We had a little more sex appeal."

The group also said they shot the video for 1992's

TLC on new album, dating and Beyoncé's fan girl moment

"What About Your Friends" twice.

GIRL GROUP ETIQUETTE

When TLC debuted in the early '90s, the industry was jam-packed with girl groups. Today, it's a rarity.

Chilli says one of the keys to a successful girl group is not going "into a group knowing that you want to be a solo artist."

"If you end up going solo that's fine, but don't go in there like, 'I'm just going to use this as my platform,'" she added.

Chilli also said things work smoothly for her and T-Boz because they "are exactly identical when it comes to morals and values."

"Cause I was never, even if she liked or had a crush (on a guy), hands off. Nah bro, I don't play that," Chilli said.

Pointing to T-Boz, she added: "'Cause this one is really shy, even if she's was just like, 'I'm not going to tell him'—it doesn't matter that's like hands off. Like forever."

"Cause there ain't no ... 'Well, you married now, so remember your boyfriend?'" T-Boz said. "'Cause I know some people who did that publicly. And you do, too."

LEFT EYE NEVER LEFT

Mormon Tabernacle Choir director mentors inmate music group

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The newest students of the director of the famed Mormon Tabernacle Choir have the talent you would expect to be honed under the guidance of an experienced music teacher. But they come from an unlikely source—Utah State Prison.

Director Mack Wilberg spent months helping members of the prison's Wasatch Music School prepare for a spring recital in June. The inmates performed with instruments donated by the community and sang gospel, country and rock songs. Many audience members said the recital exceeded their expectations.

"How great it is to see audiences turn out to support original filmmaking," said Josh Greenstein, Sony's president of worldwide marketing and distribution. "They've made 'Baby Driver' the surprise hit of the summer, a true sleeper."

TLC said Left Eye's spirit wasn't just in the studio while recording the new album, she's around them every day.

"We just incorporate her in everything. The thought is always there, whether you're recording or not—you can't forget it," T-Boz said.

Left Eye's voice—taken from an old interview—is featured on the track "Interlude" from the "TLC" album.

"It's the essence of what you remember her for," T-Boz said of Left Eye's words.

ED SHEERAN IS 'NO SCRUB'

Ed Sheeran's massive No. 1 hit, "Shape of You," recently gave credit to TLC's "No Scrubs" because some said the two songs had similar melodies. But Chilli and T-Boz said they initially didn't hear the similarities.

"I'm going to be honest with you: When I heard the song, I couldn't hear it. I was like, 'Let me hear it again,'" Chilli said.

T-Boz and Chilli didn't write "No Scrubs," so they don't get credit on Sheeran's track (it went to songwriters Kandi Burruss, Tameka Cottle and Kevin Briggs).

"I didn't (hear it) either, but they sure went after those publishing checks," T-Boz said. "I was like, 'I don't blame you!'"

'Despicable Me 3' and 'Baby Driver' win, 'The House' doesn't

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Minions are still a box office force and original stories are scoring big, but not the R-rated comedy—even with Will Ferrell and Amy Poehler behind it.

Studio estimates on Sunday say that Universal Pictures and Illumination's "Despicable Me 3" earned \$75.4 million over the weekend, while the former Saturday Night Live stars' gambling comedy "The House" burned down.

Featuring the voices of Steve Carell and Trey Parker, "Despicable Me 3" easily topped the holiday weekend charts from 4,529 theaters in North America. While it's a far cry from "Minions" \$115

million launch in 2015, and also lower than "Despicable Me 2," which opened to \$83.5 million in 2013, Nick Carpou, president of Domestic Theatrical Distribution for Universal Pictures, says that \$75 million

is a number he'll celebrate any day of the week.

Carpou notes that Illumination continues to prove itself a formidable brand for family entertainment.

"They resonate and abso-

lutely are relatable," Carpou said. "They're movies that are built for all ages."

Edgar Wright's original heist movie "Baby Driver" coasted to \$30 million in its first five days in theaters, with \$21 million from the three-day weekend to take second place. Sony Pictures released the R-rated pic which stars Jamie Foxx, Ansel Elgort, Jon Hamm and Kevin Spacey and cost a reported \$34 million to produce.

"How great it is to see audiences turn out to support original filmmaking," said Josh Greenstein, Sony's president of worldwide marketing and distribution. "They've made 'Baby Driver' the surprise hit of the summer, a true sleeper."

1. "Despicable Me 3," \$75.4 million (\$95.6 million international).
2. "Baby Driver," \$21 million (\$6.8 million international).
3. "Transformers: The Last Knight," \$17 million (\$68 million international).
4. "Wonder Woman," \$15.6 million (\$13.6 million international).
5. "Cars 3," \$9.5 million (\$5 million international).
6. "The House," \$9 million (\$2.7 million international).
7. "47 Meters Down," \$4.7 million (\$800,000 international).
8. "The Beguiled," \$3.3 million (\$460,000 international).
9. "The Mummy," \$2.8 million (\$10.3 million international).
10. "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales," \$2.4 million (\$16.3 million international).

group is co-directed by inmate Roland Pitt, who competed with Wilberg in college, and decided to teach music at the prison to atone for his mistakes.

Seeing the potential of the school's choir, the school's director, David Aguirre, asked Wilberg if someone from the Tabernacle Choir could oversee a master class. To his surprise, Wilberg himself offered to teach the class regularly.

Wilberg admits he was nervous when he held his first workshop with the inmates in February.

"I didn't know what to expect, but that first time I ... looked at all these inmates—I know they have had challenges in their lives—and to see them come together (to sing), I was moved by that," he said.

Smackdown! Trump's insult act comes from pro wrestling hype

NEW YORK (AP)—Making bombastic boasts. Dropping signature catch phrases. Attaching insults to rivals' names. Shouting down perceived enemies.

If President Donald Trump's recent attacks on television personalities, journalists and political rivals feel like something straight out of the pro wrestling circuit, it may not be a coincidence.

Wrestling aficionados say the president, who has a long history with the game, has borrowed the time-tested tactics of the squared circle to cultivate the ultimate antihero character, a figure who wins at all costs, incites outrage and follows nobody's rules but his own.

"In our terminology, he's playing it to the hilt," said former World Wrestling Entertainment writer Dan Madigan.

On Sunday, Trump's apparent fondness for wrestling emerged in a tweeted mock video that shows him pummeling a man in a business suit—his face obscured by



Members of the First Baptist Dallas Church Choir are seated behind President Donald Trump as he speaks during the Celebrate Freedom event at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, Saturday, July 1, 2017. AP

the CNN logo—outside a wrestling ring. It was not clear who produced the brief video, which appeared to be a doc-

tored version of Trump's 2007 appearance on World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. But it was tweeted from the president's official Twitter account.

Madigan was first struck by the parallels last summer when Trump was introduced at the Republican National Convention. There was a backlit Trump, unveiled in stark silhouette, who then sauntered onto stage at the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, just like wrestling's most infamous antihero, The Undertaker.

"His demeanor, duration of his walk to the podium, his playing to the crowd. ... Pure Undertaker," Madigan said.

And Trump's tiger-like pacing on stage behind Hillary Clinton during the second presidential debate last fall in St. Louis? That's how wrestlers stalk their opponents during pre-match taunting sessions.

In subsequent months of Trump's tweets and public feuds, it became clear to Madigan and other former WWE writers that, consciously or not, Trump was channeling professional wrestling in his politics.

"The parallels are uncanny," said Domenic Cotter, a producer who in the mid-2000s cut backstage segments for WWE.

Depending on your political affiliation, the writers said, Trump is playing one of two classic wrestling characters: The "heel," or ultimate bad guy, who wins at all costs; or the modern-day wrestling protagonist, dubbed a "face" or "baby face," in wrestling parlance.

"I think of Donald Trump as the ultimate baby face," Cotter said, "almost in the ilk of 'Stone Cold' Steve Austin, who was this rage-against-the-machine, anti-authority and establishment figure."

Cotter saw Trump employ a classic pro wrestling tactic during his first news conference as president-elect, when he ordered CNN reporter Jim Acosta to be quiet and barked, "You are fake news!"

"In wrestling terminology, he cut a promo on that CNN reporter and got over him, basically," Cotter said. "In wrestling, some swarthy heel is going on and on and on and the baby face quips a response right back and the audience goes crazy."

Perhaps Trump comes by it naturally. He hosted back-to-back WrestleMania events in his Atlantic City, New Jersey, Trump Plaza in 1988 and 1989. And then, most famously, there was a mock "Battle of the Billionaires" in 2007 when he body-slapped and then shaved the head of WWE boss Vince McMahon.

Most recently, he picked

McMahon's wife, Linda, who ran twice unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate in Connecticut, to head the Small Business Administration.

Ranjan Chhibber, a humanities and film studies professor at Florida State College in Jacksonville who has written about pro wrestling, said Trump is most clearly portrayed in the ring by the industry's current bad-boy-turned-hero: CM Punk, a brash 38-year-old wrestler whom writers have dubbed the "Voice of the Voiceless."

CM Punk's character often says he will say things no one else dares to say, and wrestling writers have created a new narrative for him that's almost tailor-made for the current political environment of leaked emails and unauthorized dossiers: revealing the secrets of what happens backstage.

"This is pro-wrestling writing genius," Chhibber said.

In wrestling, writers create season-long dramas that turn the mat into a stage for fantasy. Narratives pit good against evil, stronger personalities win over more subdued ones, and announcers legitimize the at-any-costs tactics of the "heels."

When Trump publicly supports Russia's Vladimir Putin, depicted by the U.S. intelligence services as a sort of global "heel," he is effectively playing the role of the announcer who builds up the bad boy in the ring, justifying his alpha-dog behavior, Madigan said.

UNESCO World Heritage talks in Poland face divisive topics

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Officials have opened the 41st annual UNESCO World Heritage Committee's conference in Poland.

The meeting will run through July 12 and debate contentious issues like Palestinian motion to deny Israel sovereignty over Jerusalem and the level of protection Poland gives its pristine Bialowieza forest.

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and Polish Culture Minister Piotr Glinski opened the session Sunday in a ceremony at the

Renaissance Wawel Castle in Krakow, a historic city on the UNESCO World Heritage site.

Earlier, they viewed Poland's most precious painting, Leonardo da Vinci's "Lady with an Ermine," which the state bought last year from the aristocratic Czartoryski family.

The government says the session is among Poland's top cultural events this year. It brings together 21 member states, more than 170 observer nations and many non-governmental organizations.

Family cycle of abuse is legacy of sexual predator

DEAR ABBY: I recently moved to Texas and met my teenage niece for the first time. After I got there I learned she had been molested by her mother's father at the age of 3. He had also molested her mother when she was a child. "Grandpa" is currently serving a life sentence in prison.

Abby, my niece has some issues. Her parents caught her sexting twice that I know of and took her phone away for a period of time. She was also accused of touching her 8-year-old niece and was ordered to knock it off.

She told me she showers with her mother and asked to shower with me. When I refused, she became abusive. When I tried to tell my brother she needs professional help, he told me to mind my own business.

If I report this, I risk never seeing anyone in my family again, but I love my niece and I'm afraid for her. Her mother has already limited my contact with her, and I'm afraid Mom needs help as much as my niece. Please help. None of this makes sense to me. Why won't they get her help?

DESPERATELY NEEDS HELP

DEAR DESPERATELY: They won't get help because it appears that in their lives inappropriate sexual behavior may have become an ingrained family affair. You are right that the mother needs as much help as

your niece, and your brother should not be covering for his wife. You should report what's going on to child protective services. While you probably won't be thanked for it, you may be able to interrupt the cycle of incest and molestation.

DEAR ABBY: I have a great-paying job telecommuting. I know the idea of sitting around in pajamas all day seems wonderful, but I'm going stir crazy.

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GOING CRAZY AT HOME

DEAR GOING CRAZY: If there is another telecommuter in your town, perhaps you could compare notes with him or her. If your problem is getting an internet connection or finding Wi-Fi, consider using the public library as an additional site from which to work. That way, you wouldn't be trapped in your home feeling so isolated. If there isn't one in your community, ask your boss if you can change your schedule occasionally. This might allow you to take breaks and do something like

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



take a powerwalk, which would put you in contact with other human beings.

For most people, work involves more than labor—there is also a social component involved. If that kind of stimulation/interaction is what you're craving, you may have to change jobs.

DEAR READERS: Have a very happy, healthy and safe Fourth of July, everyone!

LOVE, ABBY

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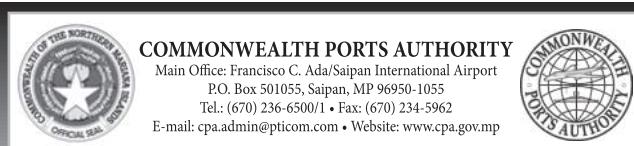
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Nuggets get Paul Millsap for 3 years, \$90M

By JON KRAWCZYNKI
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

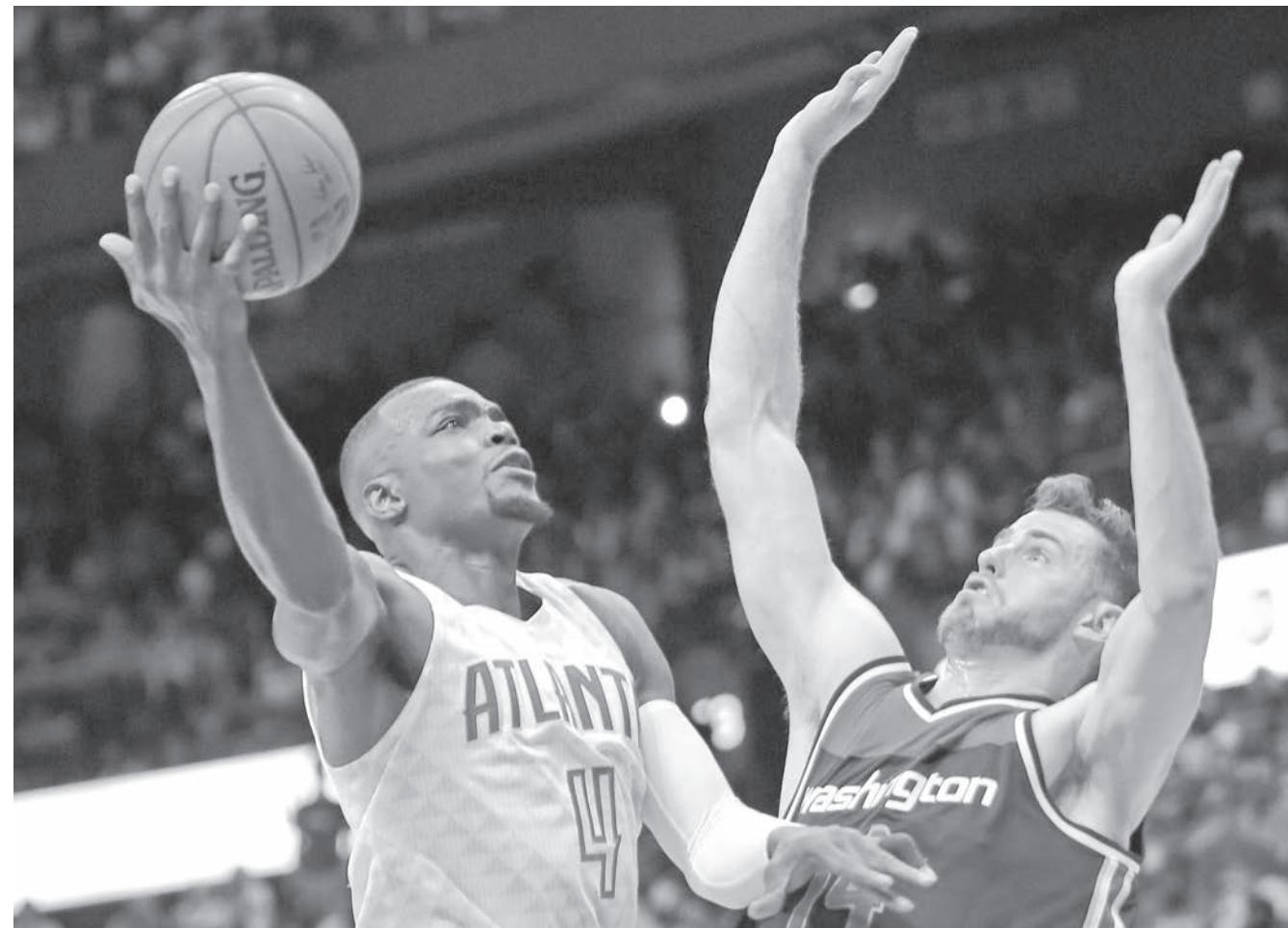


The Denver Nuggets have been chasing starry veterans the last two years, determined to add experience and firepower to a promising young core.

They finally landed a big one Sunday, agreeing to terms with four-time All-Star Paul Millsap on a three-year deal worth \$90 million, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the contract cannot be signed until Thursday.

The former Atlanta forward was one of the strongest free agents remaining on the board two days into the new business year, not counting Warriors superstar Kevin Durant, who is expected to re-sign with Golden State. The Nuggets engaged with Millsap early in the process, outlasting several other teams, including the Phoenix Suns and Atlanta Hawks, whose new GM Travis Schlenk acknowledged could get outbid for the 32-year-old's services before free agency started.

Millsap gives the young Nuggets a proven veteran who should fit perfectly with coach Michael Malone and budding star Nikola Jokic. Millsap averaged a career-high 18.1 points last season to go with 7.7 rebounds and 3.1 assists.



AP

In this April 28, 2017, photo, Atlanta Hawks forward Paul Millsap (4) shoots against Washington Wizards forward Jason Smith (14) in the first half of an NBA playoff basketball game in Atlanta.

averages of 14.2 points and 7.5 rebounds and made \$20 million last season.

After stripping coach Mike Budenholzer of his president's title, saying goodbye to GM Wes Wilcox and bringing in Schlenk, the Hawks are in the middle of a retooling process. They traded Dwight Howard to Charlotte and wouldn't get into a bidding war with the Nuggets to retain Millsap as they shift gears after seeing their win total drop from 60 in 2014-15 to 48 in 2015-16 and 43 last season.

In the last two years, Millsap, Jeff Teague, Kyle Korver, DeMarre Carroll and Al Horford have all left from that 60-win team, an exodus that has thrust the franchise into an uncertain position.

Millsap's arrival in Denver makes the Northwest Division in the Western Conference particularly grueling. Millsap and Jokic will have to contend with George and Russell Westbrook in Oklahoma City, Damian Lillard, C.J. McCollum and Jusuf Nurkic in Portland and Karl-Anthony Towns, Andrew Wiggins and Butler in Minnesota. And that doesn't even take into consideration a possible Jazz trio of Gordon Hayward, Rudy Gobert and Ricky Rubio—if Hayward chooses to stay in Utah.

He is versatile offensively and is one of the NBA's most underrated defenders.

Yahoo! Sports first reported the agreement.

Newly elevated president of basketball operations Tim Connelly and GM Arturas Karnisovas have chased big-name veterans like Dwyane Wade, Blake Griffin and Kevin Love in trade talks or free

agency over the past couple of seasons, determined to vault a rebuilding team back into contention in the powerful Western Conference.

With Paul George going from Indiana to Oklahoma City, Jimmy Butler from Chicago to Minnesota and Chris Paul from the Clippers to Houston among other significant moves in the last two

weeks, it became more important than ever for the Nuggets to break through themselves.

Millsap will slide in at power forward next to Jokic, the 6-foot-10 Serb who averaged 16.7 points, 9.8 rebounds and 4.9 assists last season. The Nuggets also have dynamic young wings Jamal Murray and Gary Harris.

The Nuggets (40-42) im-

proved by seven games, but still missed the playoffs for a fourth straight season. They lost out to Portland for the eighth and final spot in the West. The string of futility has ramped up the urgency even more now that the Western Conference figures to be as stacked as it has ever been.

Millsap was a second-round draft pick of the Utah Jazz in 2006. He spent his first seven seasons with the Jazz, developing into a rugged, two-way player, then signed with the Hawks in 2013. He has career

Ricky Rubio going from Wolves to Jazz

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves reached an agreement with Utah on Friday to send point guard Ricky Rubio to the Jazz to clear salary cap space for a big run in free agency, according to two people with direct knowledge of the deal.

The Jazz sent the Oklahoma City Thunder's 2018 first-round draft pick to the Timberwolves in exchange for Rubio, a talented Spaniard who has struggled with injuries at times over his six years in Minnesota. Utah received the pick when it traded Enes Kanter away as part of a three-team deal in 2015.

The two sides agreed to the move hours before free agency opened. They two people spoke on condition of anonymity because neither team had announced the move. The Jazz needed to make the deal before July 1 or would have lost the salary cap room necessary to pull it off.

They Jazz are looking to bolster the roster with hopes of convincing All-Star free agent Gordon Hayward to return and build off last year's playoff run. Utah hadn't previously reached the playoffs

since 2012.

Rubio's arrival likely means the end of George Hill's run in Utah, though general manager Dennis Lindsey said Wednesday that Hill remained a top priority. Hill averaged a career-high 16.9 points after being traded from the Pacers to the Jazz last summer. Injuries, however, limited him to 49 games and caused Hill to miss the final three playoff games against the Warriors.

The deal means Minnesota can clear as much as \$32 million in cap space to make a run at several free agents to pair with Karl-Anthony Towns, Andrew Wiggins and the recently acquired Jimmy Butler. Timberwolves targets could include Jeff Teague and J.J. Redick.

Rubio was drafted in 2009 but did not come over from Spain until 2011, electrifying a stagnant franchise with his enthusiasm and no-look passes while also suffering through losing season after losing season. Teaming with Kevin Love, rookie Rubio had the Wolves in position to make the playoffs in the Western Conference when he tore the ACL in his knee in a game against the Lakers in

March 2012.

Rubio also missed 60 games in 2014-15 with a severely sprained ankle that required surgery. The two major injuries affected his ability to work out during the summers, when players often make the biggest strides in developing their games.

Finally, in year No. 6, Rubio started to show signs of his potential. Over the last 2½ months of the season, he averaged 15.0 points and 10.3 assists per game while shooting 41.7 percent from the field and 37 percent from 3-point range, helping to take some of the scoring load after Zach LaVine went down with his own torn ACL.

The performance was validating for a player who had been criticized during most of his NBA career for his poor shooting, and for an owner who had backed him through all the injuries, all the shooting struggles and through the heartbreaking death of his mother during the 2015-16 season. Glen Taylor and Rubio had grown close over the years, and Taylor very much wanted to keep Rubio as the passer with the new nucleus

AP source: Ibaka, Raptors agree on \$65M, 3-year deal

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

When Toronto got Serge Ibaka before the trade deadline last season, the Raptors made clear that they had no intentions of letting him walk away this summer in free agency.

And now that's been proven.

Ibaka agreed to terms with the Raptors on a three-year contract with \$65 million, a person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke Sunday on condition of anonymity because the deal cannot be signed until the NBA's offseason moratorium ends on Thursday.

The 27-year-old Ibaka was traded to Toronto from Orlando late last season. He averaged 14.2 points and 6.8 rebounds in 23 games with the Raptors.

"His style of play fits our style of play," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said when the trade was made.

Toronto clearly hasn't changed its thinking.

Ibaka is one of only 13 players in NBA history to make 100 3-pointers and record 100 blocks in the same season; he did it last season, along with Karl-Anthony Towns, Kristaps Porzingis and Brook Lopez.

He was sent to Toronto by Orlando, in exchange for Terrence Ross and a first-round draft pick—a big price that would have looked even bigger if the Raptors had lost Ibaka for nothing this summer.

Entering his ninth NBA season, Ibaka has career averages of 12 points and 7.3 rebounds. Ibaka spent his first seven NBA seasons in Oklahoma City, helping the Thunder reach the 2012 NBA Finals against Miami.

Arrieta sharp, Happ homers twice as Cubs beat Reds, 6-2



CINCINNATI (AP)—Jake Arrieta pitched one-hit ball for seven innings without allowing a stolen base, and Ian Happ homered twice in the ballpark where he played as a college star, leading Chicago past Cincinnati 6-2 on Sunday.

Arrieta (8-6) was coming off a subpar performance that created friction and a surprise move. The Nationals stole seven bases off Arrieta during their 6-1 win on Tuesday, and catcher Miguel Montero complained afterward about the pitcher's move to the plate with runners on base. Montero was cut loose the following day.

Back in the ballpark where he threw a no-hitter last season, Arrieta was back in form, allowing only Joey Votto's first-inning single and a pair of walks — the Reds were never in position to try to steal.

Happ hit a two-run homer and a solo shot off Tim Adleman (5-5), and added an RBI single.

Anthony Rizzo also had a solo homer, and Javier Baez doubled home a run.

Nationals 7, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Bryce Harper homered twice against Carlos Martinez and Max Scherzer struck out 12 over seven scoreless innings as Washington beat St. Louis.

Harper also doubled and had four RBIs to pace Washington, which snapped a three-game skid and had lost five of seven.

The Cardinals had won four straight and six of seven overall, including series victories over the Arizona Diamondbacks and Nationals.

Scherzer (10-5) allowed two hits and two walks while lowering his major league-leading ERA to 1.94. Scherzer's double-digit strikeout performance was his 10th this season and 59th of his career.

Martinez (6-7) entered the game ranked fourth in the NL in ERA but allowed five runs in five innings.

Astros 8, Yankees 1

In Houston, Yuli Gurriel finished a triple shy of the cycle, Carlos Correa tied a career-high with four hits and had three RBIs, and Houston handed New York its 14th loss in 19 games.

Marwin Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in a three-run second off Luis Severino (5-4) as the Astros improved the best record in the major leagues to 56-27. Houston had 14 hits, including seven doubles, and went 6 for 17 with runners in scoring position.

New York, which led the AL East by four games on

June 13, lost two of three to the Astros and dropped three games behind division-leading Boston.

Chris Devenski (5-3) pitched two perfect innings in relief to get the win.

Indians 11, Tigers 8

In Detroit, Jose Ramirez homered twice, and Cleveland snapped Justin Verlander's decade-long streak of games with at least one strikeout, chasing the Detroit star in the fourth inning.

Verlander (5-5) had struck out a batter in 331 consecutive appearances and was tied with Curt Schilling for the sixth-longest streak since 1913. He hadn't gone without a strikeout since April 28, 2007, when he lasted only three innings against Minnesota.

On Sunday, he allowed seven runs and nine hits with three walks in 3 1/3 innings.

Mike Clevinger (4-3) allowed a run and two hits in six innings. He walked five and struck out seven.

The Indians held on after Detroit scored six runs in the ninth inning, including homers by James McCann and Nicholas Castellanos. Cody Allen retired the final batter for his 16th save in 17 chances.

Diamondbacks 4, Rockies 3, 12 innings

In Phoenix, Ketel Marte lined a run-scoring single in the ninth inning and Arizona overcame the first earned run allowed by Fernando Rodney in 21 games.

Rodney (2-2) had his hitless outings streak end at 11 with three straight singles in the ninth inning, including Charlie Blackmon's tying hit. Rodney got a pair of pop ups with two on to end the inning.

Brandon Drury hit a one-out single in the bottom half and Chris Iannetta followed with a double off Adam Ottavino (1-3). Marte fell into a 1-2 hole against Chris Rusin before lining a one-hopper off the wall, sending the Diamondbacks rushing out of the dugout to mob him.

Chris Owings hit a two-run homer and Drury had three hits for Arizona, off to the best start in franchise history at 52-31.

Colorado has lost 10 of 11.

Padres 5, Dodgers 3

In San Diego, Jhoulys Chacin pitched five scoreless innings, Manuel Margot homered and drove in two runs, and San Diego got a rare victory over the Dodgers.

The Padres lost seven of the first eight meetings with the Dodgers this season but defeated Kenta Maeda (6-4) for the second time in 13 weeks.

San Diego went ahead 5-0 against Maeda while Chacin



(7-7) was recording his second scoreless outing in 17 starts this year.

Chacin, who struck out six, retired cleanup hitter Cody Bellinger three times with a man on base, twice on strikes and once on a 2-0 pitch with two runners aboard.

Brandon Mauer got the last three outs for his 16th save.

Braves 4, Athletics 3, 12 innings

In Oakland, Kurt Suzuki led off the 12th inning with his second home run of the game, helping Atlanta complete a three-game sweep.

One inning after closer Jim Johnson got his sixth blown save, Suzuki lined a shot to left on a 3-1 pitch from John Axford (0-1). Suzuki also homered off starter Sean Manaea to begin the second.

It's the third multihomer of Suzuki's career and first since 2011 when he was with Oakland. The veteran catcher had not gone deep against his previous club until these homers helped Atlanta finish its six-game West Coast trip on a positive note after a rocky beginning.

Johnson (6-1) got the win despite three walks, and Aroldys Vizcaino retired three batters for his second save. Vizcaino got Franklin Barreto to fly out with two runners on to end it.

Phillies 7, Mets 1

In New York, Nick Pivetta allowed one hit in seven impressive innings for his second major league win, and Philadelphia stopped the New York Mets' four-game winning streak.

Maikel Franco had a two-run double in a four-run second aided by a pair of sacrifice bunts. Rookie catcher Andrew Knapp added an RBI single and dashed home from second on a wild pitch by Rafael

Montero.

Leadoff man Daniel Nava had three hits and two RBIs to help the major league-worst Phillies prevent a three-game sweep and finish their 4-5 road trip on a positive note. Philadelphia outhit the Mets 12-2.

Making his 10th major league start, Pivetta (2-4) permitted only T.J. Rivera's home run on an 81 mph slider with one out in the fifth. He struck out four and walked four.

Orioles 7, Rays 1

In Baltimore, Manny Machado hit a three-run homer, Kevin Gausman pitched seven innings of two-hit ball and Baltimore avoided a three-game sweep.

Mark Trumbo also homered and Seth Smith had two RBIs for the Orioles, playing their final home game until July 14.

Gausman (5-7) struck out nine and walked two in the finest of his 18 starts this season. The right-hander allowed only one runner past first base in lowering his ERA from 6.07 to 5.61.

Jesus Sucre ended Baltimore's shutout bid with an eighth-inning homer off Mychal Givens.

Tampa Bay starter Alex Cobb (6-6) gave up seven runs and six hits over 6 1/3 innings.

Red Sox 15, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Mookie Betts hit two home runs and matched a career-high with eight RBIs to help Boston rout Toronto.

Betts went 4 for 6 as AL East-leading Boston won for the sixth time in seven games, completing the three-game sweep. He hit an RBI single in the second, a three-run homer in the fourth, a two-run blast in the sixth, and a two-run single in the seventh.

It was the second multihomer game of the season for Betts, who also hit two at Philadelphia on June 14. Betts had

Chicago Cubs pitcher Jake Arrieta had it rolling Sunday in Cincinnati.

first start since Sept. 19, 2015, after 108 relief appearances, was removed in the fifth after facing three batters and retiring none. Brian Dozier and Robbie Grossman had RBI-singles in the inning.

Alexander (1-2) replaced Wood and induced Eduardo Escobar to ground into an inning ending double play with the bases loaded.

Hector Santiago (4-8) was charged with four runs and four hits, a hit batter and a walk in 3 1/3 innings.

Marlins 10, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Marcell Ozuna hit two home runs — the second moments after having his bat thrown out for having too much pine tar on it — and Miami beat Milwaukee.

The sticky situation began in the seventh, when Brewers second baseman Jonathan Villar had his bat tossed from the game for the same issue by plate umpire Hunter Wendelstedt.

Wendelstedt also checked Ozuna's bat to start the eighth and told him to get a new one. Ozuna did, and deposited his 22nd homer of the season into the bleachers in left.

White Sox 6, Rangers 5

In Chicago, Yolmer Sanchez hit a two-run home run with two outs in the eighth to rally Chicago past Texas.

The Rangers had the bases loaded in the ninth, but David Robertson (4-2) struck out Carlos Gomez to end the game.

Todd Frazier walked with one out in the eighth and, two batters later, Sanchez drove the ball to right-center off Texas reliever Jose Leclerc (1-2) for his fourth homer of the season. It handed the Rangers bullpen its American League-leading 17th blown save.

Mariners 5, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Robinson Cano hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning and James Paxton retired the first 16 hitters he faced in Seattle's win over Los Angeles.

Paxton (6-3) continued his career-long dominance of the Angels, throwing 6 1/3 innings of two-hit ball in his best start since missing most of May with a forearm strain. The left-hander has a career 2.04 ERA against the Halos, the second-best among active pitchers.

Jean Segura had four hits and drove in two runs as the Mariners took two of three from their AL West rivals.

No reason to cry for Manny Pacquiao after loss

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST



Manny Pacquiao still has his name, if not his punch.

That should get him another fight or two, though not at the rate of pay to which he's become accustomed. And it's not enough to get him a second fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr., a bout that wasn't likely to happen even before his controversial loss Sunday in Australia to hometown hero Jeff Horn.

At the age of 38, Pacquiao is pretty much done. His latest attempt at wiping away the stain left from his fight with Mayweather ended with a fighter who wouldn't have survived five rounds with him in his prime celebrating in front of a crowd of 51,052 at a rugby stadium in Brisbane.

Pacquiao's supporters will howl that the judging was horrendous, and on at least one card (117-111, Horn) it was. But it was Pacquiao who allowed the fight to be as close as it was, and it's hard to argue much (though those blabbering on ESPN certainly did) with the two judges who had it 115-113 in Horn's favor.

Besides, Pacquiao knew going in what was expected of him. He needed to dominate and he didn't, outside of a ninth round where he tried his best to take Horn out only to punch himself out and leave the final rounds in Horn's hands.

After 22 years as a pro, Pacquiao should have known the old boxing axiom: Go to someone's hometown, and sometimes you get a hometown decision.

Forget about the punch



counts, which showed Pacquiao landing twice the number of punches that Horn did. Those punches are counted by humans and with the awkward style of both fighters, it was difficult without the benefit of slow-motion replays to see just who landed what as the two flurried furiously at times in the ring.

The real problem was that Pacquiao couldn't finish Horn in the ninth round, something that isn't new for the Filipino great, who hasn't stopped anyone in eight years. He also couldn't win the 12th round on any scorecard, when a strong final round would have salvaged a draw in the welterweight title bout.

The top fighters do that. But Pacquiao is no longer among

the elite, which is why he had to go to Australia in the first place to score a reputed \$10 million payday.

The talk before the fight was that there weren't many opponents for Pacquiao after Horn, unless he was offered up as fodder for Terence Crawford or Keith Thurman in one final effort to cash in on his name. At least now he'll get a rematch with Horn, assuming he can get enough time away from his duties as a senator in the Philippines to take the fight.

"That's the decision of the judges. I respect that," Pacquiao said afterward. "We have a rematch clause, so no problem."

Those screaming on ESPN and in social media afterward

should have been as calm. Between ringside analyst Teddy Atlas and the bloviating Stephen A. Smith, you would have thought this was the rob-

COUME

From Page 28

will go for the doubles crown today when they face Wan and Alphonso at 12pm. (Brisbane time). The No. 1 seed Aussies made it to the finals after prevailing against their compatriots and No. 4 Lili Fairclough and Rhea Makersar, 6-4, 6-2.

Meanwhile, Coume was also entered in the girls U12 singles event and had a 3-3 record in the competition. She dropped their first two matches, but won three of her last

four in the consolation draw, beating Georgia Tan, 4-0, 5-4 (5), Kristanna Gjomakaj, 5-3, 1-4, 10-6, and Olivia Weatherall, 4-1, 5-3.

bry of the century, when it was anything but.

It's also not a stain on boxing in any fashion. Fights are subjective, judges see different things and the fact is that Pacquiao simply couldn't reach down and find enough to take the decision out of their hands.

The people at ESPN who signed a deal with promoter Bob Arum for a series of Saturday night fights weren't crying foul afterward. They had to be ecstatic with an entertaining fight card that ended with enough controversy to let Smith babble on endlessly even at the end of a 4½ hour prime-time marathon.

As for Atlas, well, he's an acquired taste for the casual fan. It's one thing to play the role of outraged ringside expert, but Atlas is so in love with his own voice that even when he was talking to the

fighters afterward he was giving long statements instead of asking pertinent questions.

Still, unlike the Aug. 26 charade with Mayweather and Conor McGregor, this was a real fight. Both fighters were bloodied and battered, yet both refused to give an inch even as the rounds went on and the blood kept flowing.

Mute the television and it looked like a very close fight. I had Pacquiao winning 115-113, but judges can be influenced by the crowd's frenzied backing of Horn just as television viewers can be influenced by analysts who insist that the way they see the fight is the only way it could possibly be seen.

The fact is, Pacquiao is an aging fighter who has been in too many ring wars. Time catches up with all fighters, and it looked for long stretches in Sunday's fight like it finally caught up with him.

Give Horn credit for beating a legend, faded as Pacquiao might be. Give both credit for fighting through head clashes and blood to fight to the final bell.

And enjoy the rematch, because there will surely be one.

U14 singles and doubles, but results of their matches were unavailable at the tournament website. The four CNMI players traveled to Australia from Fiji where they have been training at the ITF/OTF regional facility since early this year.

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MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	47	35	.573	—
New York	43	37	.538	3
Tampa Bay	43	41	.512	5
Baltimore	40	41	.494	6½
Toronto	37	44	.457	9½

Central Division

Cleveland	44	37	.543	—
Kansas City	41	40	.506	3
Minnesota	41	40	.506	3
Chicago	36	45	.444	8
Detroit	36	45	.444	8

West Division

Houston	56	27	.675	—
Los Angeles	43	43	.500	14½
Seattle	41	42	.494	15
Texas	40	42	.488	15½
Oakland	35	47	.427	20½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	48	34	.585	—
Atlanta	40	41	.494	7½
New York	38	43	.469	9½
Miami	36	44	.450	11
Philadelphia	27	53	.338	20

Central Division

Milwaukee	44	40	.524	—
Chicago	41	41	.500	2
St. Louis	39	42	.481	3½
Pittsburgh	37	45	.451	6
Cincinnati	35	46	.432	7½

West Division

Los Angeles	55	29	.655	—
Arizona	52	31	.627	2½
Colorado	48	36	.571	7
San Diego	34	48	.415	20
San Francisco	33	51	.393	22

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JINNOSUKE

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day of the tournament, as he ruled the 50m and 400m freestyle events in his age group. In the 50m freestyle, Suzuki submitted 29.64 seconds to beat Ferreira (29.84 seconds) and Surratt (30.24 seconds). Twenty-four others competed in the 50m freestyle event. In the 400m freestyle, which was the last competition for Day 1, the SSC swimmer reasserted his might over Ferreira and Surratt as the latter registered 4:41.01, more than two seconds better than his old PBT of 4:43.52. Ferreira recorded 4:49.19, while Surratt tallied 4:51.47.

Suzuki's two other top finishes came in the 100m and 200m freestyle races. In the last day of the tournament, Suzuki did not only won the 100m freestyle with his time of 1:02.79, but he also crushed

CNMI

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was playing Saudi Arabia yesterday, hoping to enter the win column in Pool A. Guam completes the pool and will be challenged by the CNMI tomorrow in the first game at the main stadium of the HwaSeong Dream Park.

Before losing their debut match, CNMI Little League All-Stars once led Thailand after three innings, 6-4. A five-run bottom of the third inning allowed the CNMI to turn a 1-4 deficit to the two-run advantage. Camacho's wards scored their first run in the second inning, while Thailand made it to the board at the top of the first before adding three runs in the third.

Neither team then found its targets in the fourth, while a three-run top of the fifth

helped Thailand reclaim the upper hand, 7-6. Thailand kept the shaky lead when it shut down the CNMI anew at the bottom of the fifth and the former went on to gain more cushion after another three-run performance at the top of the sixth and last inning. At the bottom of the sixth, the Commonwealth still struggled to score against Thailand's defense, resulting to the latter's debut win.

For their second game, the CNMI Little League All-Stars hit the board only in the third inning, while Hong Kong leaned on its four-run top of the fourth to break the deadlock and hand the Commonwealth back-to-back losses. Hong Kong tied the match at the bottom of the third and closed out the game half an inning earlier as the CNMI went scoreless from the fourth to sixth inning.

Meanwhile, in other results in Pool A, Guam defeated Thailand last Sunday, 11-7.

In Pool B, hometown favorite Korea clobbered Chinese-Taipei, 12-0, while the Philippines outclassed Indonesia, 14-9, during the opening day of the World Series qualifier. Pool B did not have matches last Sunday, while the Philippines vs Chinese-Taipei and Korea vs Indonesia tiffs were scheduled yesterday, but results were unavailable at press time.

Only the Top 2 teams in each pool after the round-robin elimination will advance to the playoffs, which will be played this Thursday. The championship match, on the other hand, will be held this Friday with the winner earning the rights to represent Asia Pacific and Middle East to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

CNMI women players reflect on training camp

 The lessons and experiences that members of the CNMI Women's National Team got from their training camp outweighed the results of their series of matches in Japan.

The Commonwealth players lost all their friendly games during the training camp held from June 21 to 26, but still came out winners as they learned more about soccer, their squad and their teammates, their opponents, and their hosts and their admirable attitudes, values, and culture.

"When they (Japanese players) made mistakes, they didn't put their head down and linger on these errors. Instead, they continue to play with their heads up and they even play stronger to win the ball back," said CNMI player Grace Choi after they dueled Japan Football Association's U15 Team, Toyo High School, and three teams from Seisa Hakone Sengokuhara Sports Club.

"Everyone is very disciplined and so respectful toward each other. From the start of the warm up to the time the teams have to go, there is always an utmost respect to the people, their equipment, and the facility," added Jerlyn Castillo.

Elaine Enriquez seconded Castillo's observations, as the former disclosed an unexpected moment for the team during one of their matches.

"We were amazed at how the referees and players bowed before the game when the players are being called at the court. We didn't know what to do, a few of us did it, but the rest were lost, it was a funny moment for us. When Japanese players did substitutions, they bow before leaving the field and going into the field," Enriquez said.

Self-discipline, team bonding

The visiting group had its training sessions and most of their friendly matches at the Seisa Hakone Sengokuhara Sports Club.

"It wasn't a fancy place, but the staff members were very helpful and kind. We had to learn about time management—considering when we needed to go shower and for how long. It really felt like a soccer training camp. All the players were in a room, we had two, and it made us closer as a team because we had to work together to keep things neat and clean and monitor when to sleep and wake up," Anela Duenas said.

"We slept on futons in the Tatami Room and it was fun to experience how the Japanese sleep in their rooms. Other players slept in bunk beds like



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the CNMI Women's National Team exchange gifts with Japanese players before their friendly game at the Seisa Hakone Sengokuhara Sports Club.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Assistant coach Jimmy Tang gives instructions to the players, while head coach Luem Khen Koo looks on during one of the team's training sessions at the Seisa Hakone Sengokuhara Sports Club.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI Women's National Team manager Angie Ito, left, and head coach Luem Khen Koo have a brief discussion before letting their players sleep on futons at the Tatami Room.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Women's National Team members pose for a photo with their Japanese hosts after performing a traditional dance and undergoing a sushi-making session.

the ones you usually see in training camps. But in our last evening in Japan, we all slept in one room and discussed the trip and our personal experiences. On bus rides, we also talk about each other and the team and how each game went," Diana Maniacop added.

Every time the team had their trainings sessions at the

sports club, they are reminded of the three principles Seida players, staff members, and officials follow: understand each other; leave nobody behind; and make friends.

"They inspire us to stick together as a team, never leave anyone behind. We have to help a teammate know what to do and where to go. We have

to be on the same page," Aira Ngalongalo said.

Love for soccer

The CNMI Women's National Team players witnessed the Japanese passion for the sport when they watched a game at the famous Nissan Stadium.

"It was our first time to watch an official professional

match between two great teams—Yokohama and Kobe. The crowd was loud and supportive. There are such a variety of people watching, from kids as young as 7 years old, to teenagers, probably similar to our age, and the adults, even the seniors—grandmothers and grandfathers. "It was so exciting and seeing the game

made most of us feel that someday we want to play in a field like that, with a crowd that loud, but we will need to work so hard to be able to be in that kind of stage," Diane Pablo said.

"We also went to the JFA Museum and it was mind blowing seeing the history of soccer there. I was amazed at seeing the first cleats, shin guards, and balls and how the uniforms looked like back then," Jasmine Phan said.

Buckle down to work

After taking a few days of rest following their arrival from Japan, the Commonwealth players are back to the grind, trying to put into play what have they learned from the training camp.

"We did some self evaluation, watched footages of the games to see how we could get better," said Britanny Wally.

Krizel Tuason added they need to improve their ball anticipation and think ahead of the game, while Duenas said each player is motivated to work harder to be in the first 11 of the team. Samantha Manacop, on the other hand, believes it is very important to forget their old habits and adopt the kind of discipline and dedication they saw from the Japanese players.

"We've seen what's outside Saipan, how the game is played there and how the players work toward their goal, so it's now up to us to do the same or better," Choi added.

The CNMI Women's Team's training camp was made possible through Dove's sponsorship of Northern Mariana Island Football Association's women's program and the assistance of the Japan Football Association and NMIFA president Jerry Tan. The group had the training camp to get ready for the 2018 EAFF Women's Preliminary Round 1.

"We would like to thank Dove for their continued support and acknowledge NMIFA and JFA for providing great opportunities like this to our female players. The women's football program in the CNMI grows stronger because of our partnership with generous companies like Dove and the leadership and commitment of our sports officials," CNMI Women's Team manager Angie Ito said.

"Soccer in the CNMI is more than just a sport. It also helps build up the players' character and values. The training camp made our team members realize how Japan uses soccer as an instrument for players to become good citizens of their country by showing respect and discipline on and off the pitch," Ito added. (PR)



Nuggets get
Paul Millsap for
3 years, \$90M

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Saipan Tribune Sports

28 TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2017

Arrieta sharp,
Happ homers
twice as Cubs
beat Reds, 6-2

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's Jinnosuke Suzuki, seen here racing in the 200m individual medley of a local tournament this year, ruled the 11 to 12 age group competition in the 69th Annual Keo Nakama Invitational.

Jinnosuke takes top honors

CNMI absorbs back-to-back losses

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Little League All-Stars dropped their first two games in the 2017 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament. Saturday during the opening match at the HwaSeong Dream Park in Seoul, South Korea. Then last Sunday the Commonwealth players also fell to Hong Kong, 1-5. The George Camacho-managed team



The CNMI first bowed to Thailand, 6-10, last Sat-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Some members of the CNMI Little League All-Star Team pose for a photo during the opening ceremony for the Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament last Saturday at the HwaSeong Dream Park in Seoul, South Korea.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Jinnosuke Suzuki lorded it over in the boys 11 to 12 age group competition in the 69th Annual Keo Nakama Invitational held over the weekend at the Veterans' Memorial Aquatic Center in Waipahu, Hawaii.

Suzuki collected 78 points from the 10 races he entered in, topping five of them, earning runner-up finishes in three events, and placing third in two other swims. The SSC

member was the runaway winner in his age group as he led by 20 points against runner-up Shota Ferreira (58 points) of Aloha Aquatics Association. More than 20 swimmers were

entered in Suzuki's division.

The 11-year-old swimmer posted his first place finish on Day 1 (June 30/Hawaii time) of the meet after clocking in at 2:36.07 in the 200m individ-

ual medley. His time was more than 3 seconds faster than his previous personal best (2:39.23) and he touched the wall more than two seconds ahead of runner-up Tyler Surratt of Premier Aquatics-Texas. Twenty-three swimmers did the four-lap swim.

Suzuki got two more first place finishes in the opening

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Coume advances to doubles finals in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Coume Kaga marched into the title match in the girls U12 doubles event of the 2017 Rod Laver Lead.

Coume and her teammate Clara Cwajgenbaum of New Caledonia won their first four games to set up a finals showdown against No. 1 seed Arabella Barnett and Tianyu Dong of Australia. The No. 8 seed Coume and Cwajgenbaum were at the lower half of the draw and got their first win against Australia's Ezara Alphonso and Joellah Wan, 6-1, 6-0, last Friday in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. The CNMI-New Caledonia pair then eliminated another Aussie duo in Amelia Johnson and Piper Khouri, 6-3, 6-2,

last Saturday to move into the quarterfinals.

In the Round of 8, Coume and Cwajgenbaum stunned

the No. 2 seed Alessia Van Der Eerden and Elim Yan, also of Australia, 6-4, 6-3, to move one win away from clinching



the division championship. Coume and Cwajgenbaum

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coume Kaga, seen here in action during a local tournament, made it to the finals of the 2017 Rod Laver Lead in Australia.